

Tuesday April 9 1996

Abu Dhabi D 8.50, Albania L 1.20, Andorra FF 10, Argentina AS 25, Australia AU 25, Belgium BF 20, Bulgaria B 17.50, Canada C 12.50, Czech Republic KC 5, Denmark DK 15, Finland F 10, France FF 10, Germany DM 3.50, Greece G 5.50, Hong Kong HK 5.25, Hungary H 200, Iceland IS 150, India IN 50, Israel IS 8.50, Italy I 3.50, Japan J 12.50, Korea K 150, Kuwait KD 2.00, Latvia LV 2, Lithuania LT 2.000, Luxembourg LF 55, Macedonia M 50, Malawi ML 0.43, Maldives D 28, Mauritania G 4.00, Mexico M 15, Oman OR 1.00, Pakistan P 70, Poland Z 5.70, Portugal P 200, Romania R 2.50, Saudi Arabia S 10, Slovakia SK 55, Slovenia SI 1.200, Spain P 225, Sweden SK 15, Switzerland S 3, Thailand B 80, Tunisia T 1.700, Turkey T 10.000, Ukraine UA 2.00, USA US 2.75, Zimbabwe Z 27.00

The Guardian

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Martin Walker on a Hollywood rescue

The gay couple who saved MGM

G2 with European weather

The writer who walked through walls

Roddy Doyle — voice of battered women

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Education

David Bellamy: Conservation on the curriculum

G2 page 10

War of words with Saudis forces BBC to shut down Arabic TV channel

Owen Bowcott
David Hirst
THE diplomatic furore over Saudi Arabian censorship of news about the Mohammed al-Mas'ari culminated last night in the BBC's Arabic Television channel being taken off air with the probable loss of 250 jobs. The decision to pull the plugs on the £12 million a

year service — produced by the corporation and carried on a Saudi-owned satellite — comes less than a week after a BBC Panorama programme revived criticisms of human rights abuses in the kingdom. In a brief statement, BBC Worldwide television confirmed it was seeking a "settlement of outstanding matters" with Orbit Communications and an "orderly wind-down of the service". No date has been set

for final transmission. Orbit is owned by the Mawarid Group whose chairman is the Saudi prince Khalid bin Abd al-Rahman. He is a cousin of King Fahd and married to the King's sister. Prof al-Mas'ari last night welcomed the fallout. "It is the best thing," he said. "The BBC should not submit to Saudi censorship. There is no way you can get into the same bed with someone who has Aids and

get away safely. I believe the BBC filed a strong complaint about the censorship of services from Rome and the Saudis couldn't take it. The BBC World Service would do better to find a free channel not owned by the Saudis." In January it emerged that reports on the BBC's Arabic Television channel about the plan to deport Prof Mas'ari to the Dominican Republic were being blocked out at Orbit's satel-

lite relay station in Rome. At that time the corporation said the gaps in transmission were being "urgently investigated" but it hoped the service could continue. It was not clear last night who initiated the end to the agreement. The BBC's contract specified that it should maintain editorial control of the channel's output but signs had been growing of Saudi unease over the agreement and programme content. The BBC said both sides had ultimately given notice "of intention to terminate" the agreement. The channel, launched in June 1994, initially broadcast for two hours a day but swiftly increased the service to eight hours. It offered subscribers news, business and factual programmes in Arabic. Based in BBC studios in west London, it has been employing 250 journalists, producers and technicians. The channel's output was

beamed to the Orbit network in Rome, encrypted and broadcast throughout the Middle East and north Africa. Neither Orbit's nor Mawarid's offices in Rome or London could be contacted last night. There is a remote hope that Arabic Television could be transferred to another satellite, Panamsat 4, on which the BBC has a transponder. The corporation may alternatively seek a fresh Arab partner.

A corporation spokesman said the Panorama programme on Saudi Arabia was broadcast on the channel on Thursday. Translation into Arabic normally takes up to 10 days. It was not blocked out by Orbit. The Foreign Office last night insisted there had been no contact with the Saudi authorities over the latest development. **Exiles' schism boosts Saudis, page 7; Letters, page 8**

Britain faces ERM threat

Ian Traynor in Bonn and Patrick Wintour

AN ALLIANCE of Germany, France and the European Commission is seeking to pressurise Britain into rejoining an overhauled Exchange Rate Mechanism in a move which will inflame Tory party divisions over Europe. Refusal to put the pound into a new currency framework could result in trade sanctions or financial penalties being imposed on Britain, the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, will warn at a meeting of European Union finance ministers later this week. Although Mr Clarke will attempt to fend off moves by Britain's European partners to force the pace on closer currency ties, the ambush at Friday's meeting is certain to infuriate Tory Euro-sceptics. Backed by the commission and Frankfurt-based European Monetary Institute (EMI) — the forerunner of a European central bank which would set EU-wide interest rates — the Franco-German alliance intends to punish Britain if sterling devalues outside a new system. The sanctions could include discrimination on goods and services exported by Britain to the Continent and fines in the form of higher EU budget contributions. Such a move could damage the single European market and represent a breach of the principle of free trade across national borders in the EU. Euro-sceptics regard Britain's departure from the ERM on "Black Wednesday" in September 1992 as the turning point in the revival of the British economy. Interest rates have fallen dramatically since, while the weaker pound has given British exporters a competitive boost at the expense of European and world rivals.

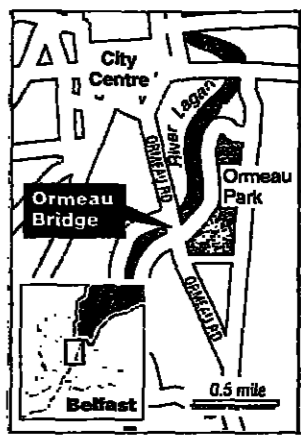
Clarke to tell the other countries where to get off." Friday's meeting is aimed at resolving the issue of how the future single European currency will be linked to the currencies of EU member states which stay outside. Despite economic problems across Europe, some countries still believe the "euro" could be established by January 1, 1999. Hearings by the cabinet decision last week to agree to hold a referendum before adopting the euro, Tory Euro-sceptics — who see a single currency as leading inevitably to political union — will demand that Mr Clarke reject pressure for an early decision to rejoin the ERM. German and French officials met last month to fine-tune their views ahead of the meeting in Verona, northern Italy. Last week central bank governors met in Frankfurt to agree proposals to be put to the meeting by Alexandre Lamfalussy, head of the EMI. Last week's annual report from the EMI said exchange rates in the EU were a matter of "common interest" and Mr Lamfalussy said that would entail policy co-ordination among EU members. While declining to disclose the proposals he will table, Mr Lamfalussy described the relationship between those inside and outside the single currency club as "a major political issue" which would become "crucial and could become a very difficult problem to handle". Germany and France appear to favour compelling membership in a new ERM to prevent, say, the British or the Italians engaging in "competitive devaluations" to make their exports cheaper. The battle over the "ins-outs" dilemma has intensified since last November, raised the issue. Within days of that speech, Hans Eichel, chief of Germany's powerful central bank, responded by conceding that some unnamed countries might get the "silly idea" of opting for competitive devaluation against the euro and called for moves "to eliminate the national option of deliberate devaluation".

Plastic bullets fired at demonstrators as violence marks start of marching season



Protestants confront riot police after being barred from marching into a mainly Catholic area of south Belfast yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: CRISPIN ROOMELL



'The disgraceful attacks on the police are the work of people intent on violent confrontation and disorder. I utterly condemn them'

— Sir Patrick Mayhew

Ulster march ends in RUC clash

David Sharrock
Ireland Correspondent

VIOLENCE erupted on the opening day of the Protestant marching season in Northern Ireland when riot police fired plastic bullets at loyalist demonstrators wielding petrol bombs during a tense stand-off over the right to march through a largely Catholic district. Five people were injured during yesterday's sporadic clashes, and several shops and businesses on Belfast's Ormeau Road were damaged as the RUC mounted a day-long blockade to prevent the

Protestant Apprentice Boys organisation from marching across the River Lagan into the Lower Ormeau. Violence flared three times during the day-long stand-off, notably in the early evening when riot police fired a volley of plastic bullets into a crowd of 500 demonstrators. Five Catholics were murdered in a bookmaker's shop on the Lower Ormeau by the Ulster Freedom Fighters four years ago. Since then the Lower Ormeau Concerned Community has orchestrated a campaign to prevent the parades taking place. The marchers say they had nothing to do with the murders

and are simply upholding a century-old tradition to march into the city centre down a public highway. The local Ballynafeigh branch of the Apprentice Boys had been due to parade down the road in south Belfast — where Catholics have come to outnumber Protestants in the past two decades — at 7.30 in the morning before making their way to an annual rally in Portadown, Co Armagh. But last week the RUC served notice that it would not permit the parade to go ahead, citing the threat of serious public disturbance as the reason. For much of the

day, barring two scuffles, the Apprentice Boys maintained a dignified vigil at the Ormeau Bridge, which was sealed before dawn by police armoured Land-Rovers. In the afternoon the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, arrived at the bridge in an apparent attempt to negotiate a settlement. But he left without making any comment amid some barracking from the demonstrators. At about 10.30 the demonstration was about to break up peacefully, but Apprentice Boys returning from their rally in Portadown turn to page 2, column 6

Revenue's lottery win taxes punters' patience

Owen Bowcott

AS IF crumpling up those daydreams every Saturday night were not enough, the National Lottery yesterday appeared to have devised a fresh formula for humiliating envious losers. One winning ticket at the weekend, it emerged, was held by a Scottish syndicate of inland Revenue tax inspectors who took a substantial share of the £21 million jackpot on the first day of the Easter holiday. One syndicate member said: "We are all stunned. The telephone lines have been buzzing since the draw. I don't think any of us will be considering retiring. I am sure it will be business as usual once the whole thing has sunk in."

free parking passes to a patrol of traffic wardens might have been as popular. Each of the 19 workers at the Centre One office in East Kilbride, near Glasgow, will receive around £220,000 when Gamelot, the National Lottery organiser, reopens today after the Easter holiday. One syndicate member said: "We are all stunned. The telephone lines have been buzzing since the draw. I don't think any of us will be considering retiring. I am sure it will be business as usual once the whole thing has sunk in."

A spokeswoman for the Inland Revenue said yesterday: "Lottery winnings, like all gambling, is tax-free. They won't have to declare it on their tax returns — though it might help explain to the local, friendly tax inspector why they are now living in a large mansion. Anyway, it gives us all hope for the future." When the numbers — 1, 4, 6, 14, 17, 38 — were drawn, there were five winning tickets for the rollover cash accumulated over the previous two weeks. Their value was £4,245,315 apiece.



Inside

Britain
Thefts from government departments — from computers to a horsebox — have risen by 373 per cent in five years.

World News
The United States is playing down the risk of conflict in Korea, fearing the South's domestic policies could inflame the crisis.

Finance
Children were given among the best pay increases in the land last year with pocket money up by 17 per cent, a new survey shows.

Sport
Manchester United increased their chances of a league and cup double with a 1-0 win over Coventry in the Premiership.

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Comment and Letters 8
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£3,000	12.75	71.91	81.43	111.38

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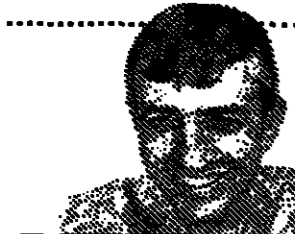
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Sketch

Seasonal gloom with a view



David Ward

THIS column's daughter is buying a flat, so the housing market must be picking up. The bad news is that this particular first-time buyer has not heard of the word deposit, so this column is broke again. Forget sympathy; just send cheques.

spent most of Easter exuding jacket-off enthusiasm, optimism and efficiency in the agency's second office in Macclesfield. "We are selling in weeks properties which have been on the market with other agents for years," he said. "We are not performing miracles, just doing the job properly."

Refugees have taken over the US embassy compound, writes Phillip van Niekerk in Monrovia

Liberia plunges into chaos

A REFUGEE camp has risen mushroom-like in the US embassy compound at Mamba Point, at the southern tip of Monrovia. From the four corners of the Liberian capital people have walked here with only what they can carry on their heads.

Johnson, came to her neighbourhood, killed at least 25 people and burnt houses. In the middle of her story, a crackle of AK-47 fire from outside the compound sends 20,000 people ducking and diving in unison.

The radio station of Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front calls on people from the Bassa community to leave the area of the barracks to enable the "security forces" — code for its own militia — to conduct "mopping up" operations.

The radio station of Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front calls on people from the Bassa community to leave the area of the barracks to enable the "security forces" — code for its own militia — to conduct "mopping up" operations.

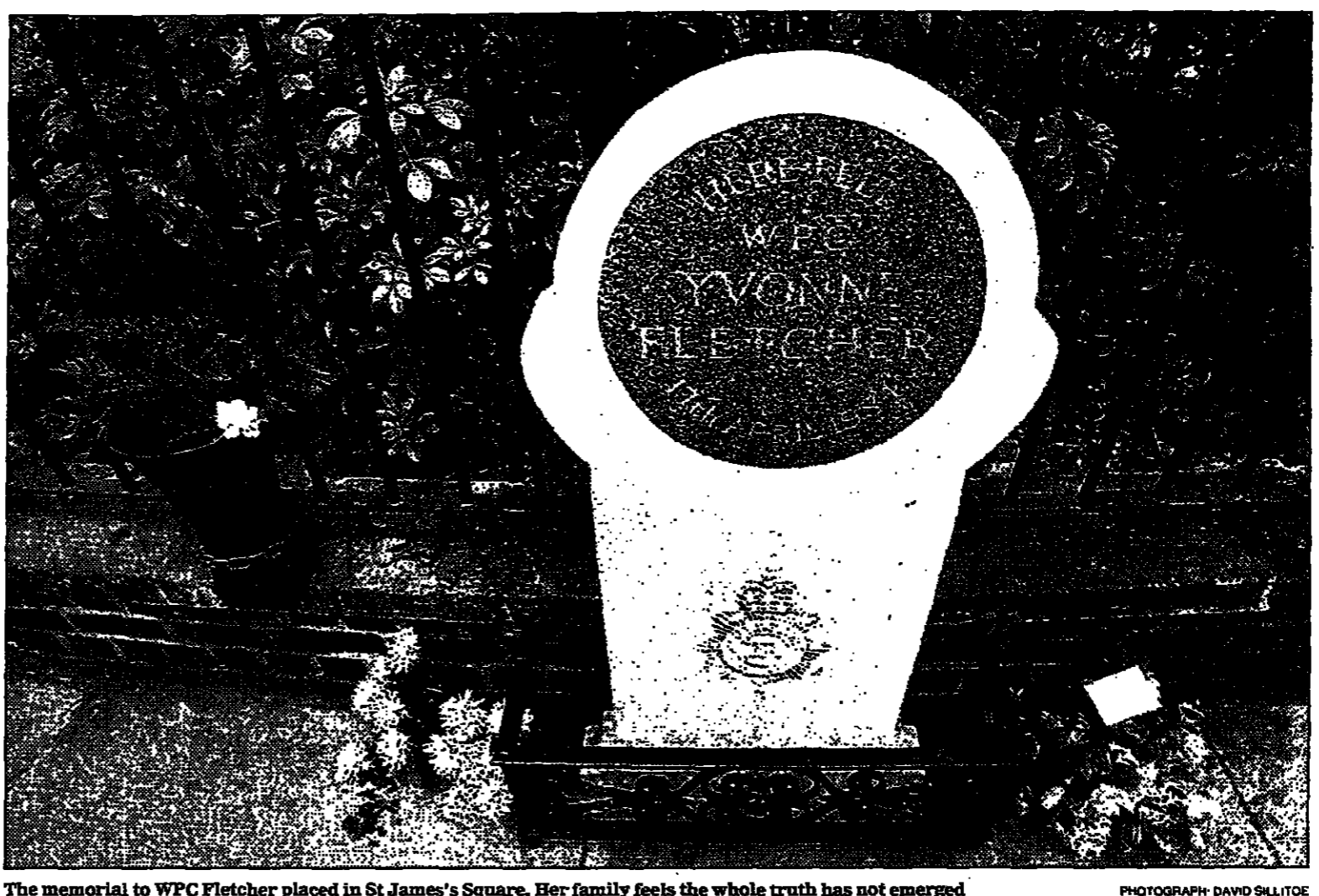
tanks had also been captured. The Ecomog troops have stood back for three days, allowing the city to be sacked. But yesterday they moved in behind Mr Taylor's forces to root out the dissidents.

At the Mamba Point Hotel, a small group of Europeans gazes nervously out to sea. Outside can be heard the rattle of small arms fire and occasional artillery. No one eats near the windows.



Yvonne Fletcher: shot dead during demonstration

Documentary says second gunman could have been behind killing in 1984 which hardened British attitude to Gaddafi



The memorial to WPC Fletcher placed in St James's Square. Her family feels the whole truth has not emerged

'US involved' in death of WPC at Libyan embassy

Duncan Campbell and Richard Norton-Taylor YVONNE Fletcher, the policewoman shot dead during a demonstration outside the Libyan Embassy more than 10 years ago, could have been killed by a member of the American intelligence services to enlist British support against Libya, according to a documentary to be shown tomorrow.

April 1984 when shots were fired at anti-Gaddafi demonstrators. At the time it was believed that all the shots had been fired from the first floor of the Embassy building.

anyone admits, they knew that there was something different about it but the message wasn't passed on. It should have been policed differently and constables like Yvonne should not have been there.

ing that WPC Fletcher must have been shot from a first floor window of the embassy. It suggests, with the backing of Hugh Thomas — a controversial former army surgeon — that the trajectory of the bullet that killed her indicates that she was shot from a much greater height.

that the fatal shot could have come from a handgun fired from the sixth floor of another building in the square which had recently been used by intelligence officers. American security analysts say that the shooting drastically altered the British attitude to Gaddafi which, until then, had been much more relaxed than that within the Reagan administration.

Taylor, who has taken an interest in the case for a number of years, says in the programme that attempts to get the truth of what exactly happened that day have been rebuffed. "What we get back all the time is waffle," he says.

Review

Small idea on a small stage

Adam Sweeting

LIKE CHIT Richard, Gary Numan's real surname is Webb. Perhaps the similarities don't end there. Despite his superficial trappings of electronic militarism and a performing persona which makes John Redwood seem amusing and spontaneous, Numan is a determined self-made entrepreneur, who has built himself a dependably loyal following despite ceaseless rickshaws from critics. Indeed, like Sir Clifford, he has plugged a way so doggedly that the critics have given up.

boards were perched atop giant cubes, the latter decorated to look like marble. Numan's real surname is Webb. Perhaps the similarities don't end there. Despite his superficial trappings of electronic militarism and a performing persona which makes John Redwood seem amusing and spontaneous, Numan is a determined self-made entrepreneur, who has built himself a dependably loyal following despite ceaseless rickshaws from critics.

NUT leader crushed in 'more democracy' fight

John Carvel Education Editor

DOUG McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, yesterday went down to a crushing defeat in his attempt to break the power of leftwingers by introducing new procedures to submit all conference decisions to a postal ballot of the full membership.

"I cannot explain why anyone would vote against (the balloting proposal) unless they are not confident the decisions they take here are supported by those they claim to represent," Mr McAvoy said. "That could be the only logical reason for members opposing putting to a ballot of the membership decisions taken in their name."

A boycott of tests at 11 in protest at the Government's plans for primary school league tables is also expected to be considered today. Earlier in the debate on reforming the union, a succession of delegates condemned Mr McAvoy's plans as "Dougocracy".

Plastic bullets fired as Protestants and RUC clash

continued from page 1 30 miles away began swelling the numbers. Some of those present seemed determined to stage a repeat of last July's three-day stand-off between police and Orangemen in Portadown, in what became known as the Siege of Dunmore after an Orange parade was banned from going down a Catholic road.

The Open University advertisement including text: 'What can the Open University do for you?', 'We can give you a recognised BA or BSc degree...', and a form for requesting a prospectus.

Burger and bazooka coupon offer misfires in Baltimore

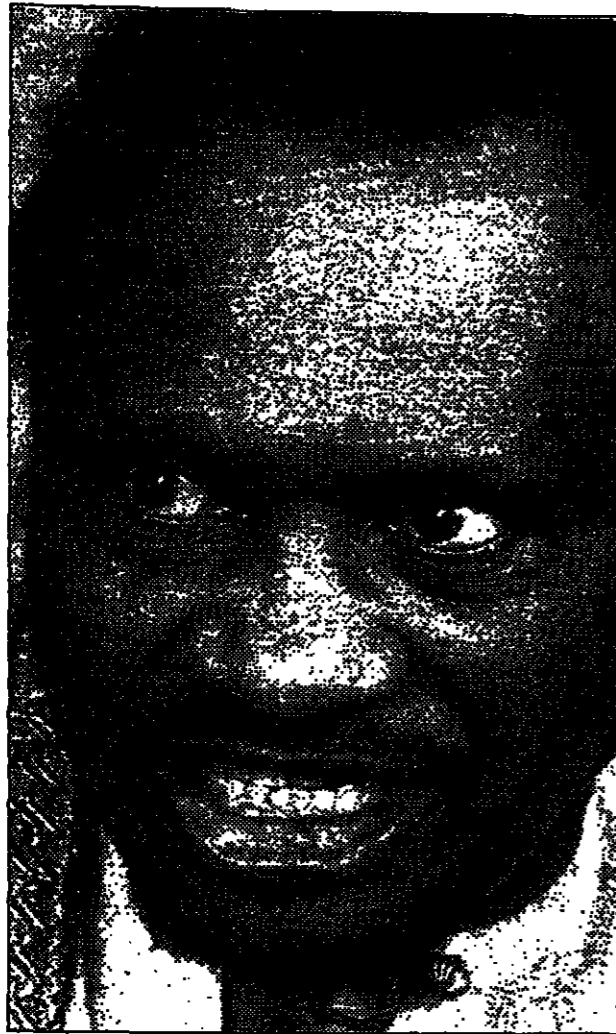
A BURGER King restaurant in Baltimore offered a whopper of a deal — buy food and get a discount on ammunition or a gun. A coupon printed on the back of meal receipts said: "Good for one free box of ammo with gun purchase or 10 per cent off."

the offer. That prompted the owner of the sports shop they were running the offer with, Tim Watson, to threaten a lawsuit. He spent \$14,000 to promote his store at the restaurant and on cable TV. "I don't sell to low-lives or criminals," he said.

Handwritten Arabic text: صكرا من الامل

صكنا من الامل

IOS



Paul Robeson as Othello at Stratford in 1959



Anthony Hopkins in a 1981 BBC TV version of the play

Giles Foden on the latest academic work to cast doubt on the authorship of English literature's most famous plays



Donald Sinden and Suzanne Bertish in the RSC's Othello at the Aldwych Theatre in the West End in 1980

Shakespeare scribe 'rewrote Othello'

Bard's tragedy could have become comedy of printing errors — but some say it is much ado about nothing

ORSON Welles, Paul Robeson, Laurence Olivier, Donald Sinden, Anthony Hopkins — they may have got it all wrong. They could all have been speaking the wrong lines in the part of Othello, as indeed Lawrence Fishburne might be playing the Moor to Kenneth Branagh's Iago in the current cinema version of the drama.

For much of Othello was rewritten by the man who copied it out for the printers, according to a book launched at the World Shakespeare Congress in Los Angeles yesterday.

In The Texts of Othello and Shakespearean Revision, published this week, Professor Ernst Honigsmann, a noted Shakespearean scholar, claims that the scribe, or scribe, Ralph Crane, substantially altered Shakespeare's original, including the famous speech "It is the cause, it is the cause, my soul", spoken by Othello as he approaches Desdemona's bed with murderous intent.

"The argument of my book is that a very large number of words in the play as usually printed are more likely to come from the pen of Ralph Crane than from the pen of Shakespeare," says the author.

As a performer who happens to write plays, Shakespeare took little trouble about the transformation of his work from near illegible manuscript to printable form (although he was careful about his poems).

The plays were published

in two versions, known as quarto and folio. A quarto is usually a single play published on its own, a folio is a collection of plays (36 or thereabouts in Shakespeare's case); the words folio and quarto refer to the folding of the sheet.

Honigsmann's case depends on the acceptance of Crane as the scribe who copied out the 1623 folio version of the play, which has long been adopted by editors as fundamentally Shakespearean, in preference to the 1622 quarto edition which suffered from the shaky finances and questionable procedures of the printer Thomas Walkley, or from "memorial pervasions" as Professor Honigsmann puts it.

There are hundreds of different words in the two versions. The questions are: which differences are Shakespeare's own revisions, which are those of his collaborators, and which are textual corruptions — and does it matter anyway?

Russell Jackson, text adviser to the Lawrence Fishburne Othello, and curandary working with Kenneth Branagh on his forthcoming film of Hamlet, doesn't think it does.

"I don't think it affects the people who perform or interpret the plays unless they feel the need to attribute them in their entirety to one presiding genius," he said from the Shepperton set of Hamlet.

"They're still vital theatrical texts whether or not they come from the pen of one man." John Kerrigan, editor of Shakespeare's sonnets for Penguin, has given a cautious welcome to Honigsmann's proposals.

"Honigsmann is reminding us that Shakespeare's texts come down to us through various hands. Reinstating the Old Adam of corruption, he sees more error than authorial improvement in the quarto and folio texts diverge. This admirably clarifying work will spread doubt and confusion among Shakespeareans."

As for Ralph Crane, he remains a shadowy figure. A lawyer's scrivener, he worked for Shakespeare's King's Men theatre company between 1619 and 1623, mainly on comedies — although he did write a poem that survives.

Honigsmann takes his place in a long line of disputants about Shakespearean authorship. The lawyer and philosopher Francis Bacon has been enlisted as disseminating his occult philosophy through the work of "Shakespeare". Edward de Vere, the seventeenth Earl of Oxford, has been proposed as the author of Hamlet (Preston was a supporter of this claim).

There have also been suggestions that rival playwright Christopher Marlowe was not killed in a drunken brawl, or an Elizabethan secret service execution, but went on to write secretly as "Shakespeare". Others believe that the plays are the work of a group including leading figures of the day, such as Walter Raleigh.

EAJ Honigsmann, The Texts of Othello and Shakespearean Revision (Routledge, £35)

Seized Briton seen in jungle

David Pallister

THE British mine clearance expert and his Cambodian interpreter kidnapped two weeks ago by an armed gang believed to be Khmer Rouge were seen alive last Wednesday, a senior provincial official said yesterday. Christopher Howes, aged 36, a former sapper from Bristol, was seized with Houn Hourth, aged 30, by about 30 men on March 26 while working on a road project five miles from Cambodia's 11th century temple complex at Angkor Wat.

The deputy governor of Siem Reap province, Hem Bun Heng, said villagers collecting firewood spotted them cutting rice near a pool with about 30 armed men in the jungle 40 miles north of Siem Reap town. "They were not handcuffed, and they then walked with the armed group to the northern area of the jungle. With the latest report, I feel that they might be sent to the Khmer Rouge area of Amlong Veng near the Thai border."

Mr Heng's announcement is the latest in a series of conflicting reports from officials about whether the kidnapers have been contacted and whether they are Khmer Rouge regulars or freelance bandits. If the sighting is accurate, the pair are being taken into the jungle stronghold of the Khmer Rouge ruled by General Ta Mok, known as "the Butcher". Mr Howes, who works for the British charity Mines Advisory Group, was one of a number of mainly British ex-soldiers and being held by 300 Cambodians to clear the millions of mines left after 25 years of conflict. He moved to Cambodia in November.

The gang took him hostage with more than a dozen Cambodian assistants. After he refused to return to Siem Reap and bring back a ransom of \$5,000 for the release of his team, his men were released and he and Mr Hourth were marched off.

According to General Khan Savoenu, the regional army commander, three villagers sent as intermediaries have also been kidnapped.

In 1993 the Khmer Rouge seized and then released a British deminer working for the Halo Trust. A year later seven Westerners, including three Britons, were seized and all but one, an American woman aid worker, killed.



Laurence Fishburne playing the lead in the current film version of the play

True or false?

Variations between the two earliest printed versions of Othello, the Quarto of 1622 and the Folio of 1623.

Act 1 Scene 3

Quarto
Othello: Your voyces Lords: beseech you let her will, Have a free way, I therefore beg it not To please the palate of my appetite.

Folio
Othello: Let her have your voice. Vouch with me Heaven, I therefore beg it not, To please the palate of my Appetite.

Act 1 Scene 3

Quarto
Either for stay or going, the affaires cry hast, And speede must answer, you must hence to night, Dead: To night my Lord? Du: This night.

Oth: With all my heart. Folio
Either for her stay, or going: th'Affaires cry hast: And speede must answer it. Sen: You muste away to night Oth: With all my heart.

Act 3 Scene 3
Quarto: Cry out, sweete creature, and then kisse me hard. As if he plucked up kisses by the rootes. That grew upon my lips, then layed his leg Over my thigh, and sigh'd, and kissed, and then Cried, cursed fate, that gave thee to the Moore.

Folio
Cry, oh sweete Creature: then kisse me hard, As if he plucked up kisses by the rootes, That grew upon my lippes, laid his Leg ore my Thigh, And sigh, and kisse, and then cry cursed Fate, That gave thee to the Moore

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CBI tries to nail 'insecurity myth'

Business chiefs hope inquiry will counter fears over job flexibility

Richard Thomas Economics Correspondent

REPRESENTATIVES of Britain's largest businesses have launched a big inquiry into counter charges that firms are exploiting part-time and contract staff and to head off pressure for enhanced worker rights from a Labour government.

Business leaders fear a Blair administration will use growing job insecurity to justify tighter labour market regulation. Members of the Confederation of British Industry's employment policy committee have instructed staff to investigate the problem. The Guardian has learned. Insiders expect the probe to show that job insecurity is a problem of

perception rather than reality. One top policy adviser at the CBI said: "Sometimes perception overtakes reality. That could be well the case here."

Work on the inquiry, expected to draw on specially commissioned opinion polls, has just started and the final draft will form the basis for discussion at the CBI's annual meeting in November.

Besses, who is the CBI's human resource policy director, said: "Our members were worried that growing concerns about job insecurity would be harmful to the credibility of flexible employment: part-time work and so on."

Besses were anxious to preserve their right to hire and fire without government interference, he added. "Unless we look at it ourselves, the danger is that the mood will

change and we would be a casualty."

But Labour seized on the move as evidence the CBI was moving on to its agenda. Michael Meacher, shadow employment secretary, said that whatever the motive for the research, it represented a significant change of tack.

"I very much welcome the CBI's concern over job insecurity. This shows the CBI beginning to act as social partners in a way that will help an incoming Labour government to tackle this endemic problem."

He admitted differences over policy were likely to remain. "But the fact they are even looking at it indicates a more positive approach."

Some CBI officials are concerned that the organisation has been too hostile to Labour on issues such as the minimum wage and the European social chapter, and fear the research could be used to undermine one of the Opposition's main election themes.

One senior figure said last night: "We have done a lot to knock down their plans for a minimum wage. Job insecurity does have more of a Labourian feel to it — but I'm afraid that might not be the way it comes out."

Internal hopes of a less politically partisan approach had been fuelled by the recent appointment of Adair Turner as director-general. In his keynote speech, Mr Turner — nicknamed "Wet Adair" by staff — called for workers to be given a bigger share of company profits.

In recent months, CBI specialists have been involved in discussions with senior Labour front-benchers on a range of issues, including the latest training policy document, but front-benchers are afraid the employers' organisation will covertly support the Conservatives as polling day nears.

Workers put stake up for sale, page 11

'My eye can never perceive lines or details, and I never think of counting the hairs on a pedestrian's beard or the buttons on his coat. Such trifles never distract my attention.'

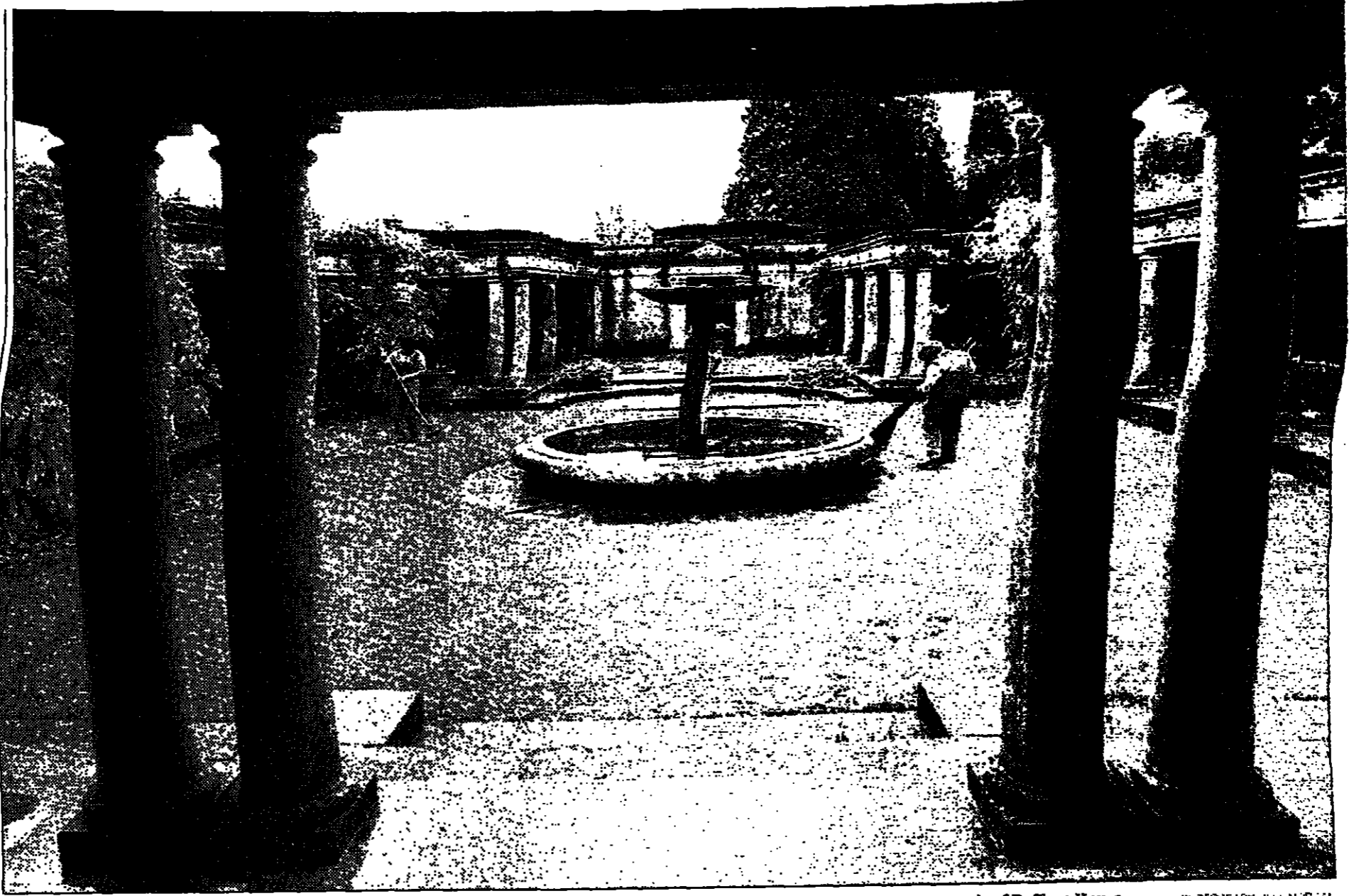
Goya at the Prado

Computer thieves hit Whitehall

David Hencke Westminster Correspondent

THEFTS from government departments - particularly computer equipment - has soared by a per cent to nearly £2 million a year over the last five years, according to figures released by ministers. The scale of the increase - from just over £400,000 in 1991 to £1,973,042 last year - has led some departments to link the spate of thieving to organised gangs, using contractors' passes to gain access. Among departments targeted are the Serious Fraud Office, SAFE, the security agency, the Cabinet Office, the Treasury and the Crown Prosecution Service. The increase, revealed in a series of parliamentary answers to Ian McCartney, Labour's employment spokesman, coincides with large purchases of computer equipment. One of the largest increases is 831.4 per cent from £32,291 to £497,041 at the Department of Employment - has been linked to computer thefts from buildings in Westminster and Holborn in central London by people using contractors' passes, taking advantage of privatisation. The Department of Health, which recorded a 2,066 per cent increase from £16,800 a year to £232,020, blames the rise on "an increasing frequency of break-ins by professional criminals in search of computers and their components". The thefts are understated because not all are recorded. The Department of Environment keeps no central records while the Ministry of Defence does not record anything stolen worth less than £100,000. The ministry recently disclosed that it had lost many valuable prints and paintings from buildings including the boardroom of the Admiralty Arch. Its only recorded thefts are some three-inch Royal Navy rockets worth £204,000 and a thermal imager worth £118,000. The thermal imager disappeared off the back of a lorry during a transfer between bases while the rockets disappeared while being unloaded at a Scottish port. The rockets fire anti radar fillings rather than weapons. Among the more exotic thefts are 23 heat lamps and a horsebox from the Home Office; an uninterruptible power supply unit from the Treasury and a despatch van from the Scottish Office. Mr McCartney said: "It is appalling that ministerial incompetence is allowing millions of pounds worth of government equipment to disappear. Some small losses may be expected in any organisation, but when £50,000 worth of chairs, £100,000 worth of rockets and even a horsebox vanish there is serious cause for concern. "Only one government department said it was looking at ways of improving security, if ministers do not take action to stop this flood of property flowing out of the back door of their departments, they will be regarded as partners in crime."

Table with 5 columns: Department, 1991-2, 1998-9, Increase, % rise, £ total 91/2-98/9. Rows include Attorney General, Treasury, Education, Employment, Defence, Home Office, Foreign Office, Social Security, Environment, Cabinet Office, Scotland, Wales, Health, Transport, NI Ireland, National Heritage, DTI, Total.



The Roman garden, featuring a fountain based on one excavated at Pompeii, is one of a series of 'green rooms' in the 55 acre grounds of Dyffryn House

Stately home a cash victim of council reorganisation

New unitary authority has closed Dyffryn House and only lottery funding can save its famous gardens, Maeve Kennedy reports

A STATELY home near Cardiff has closed its doors, and its famous gardens are under threat, after becoming one of the first victims in the heritage area of local government reorganisation. The Museums Association and the Garden History Society have warned that there may be many more casualties as new, smaller authorities

maintain them. The house and its gardens were jointly administered by Mid and South Glamorgan county councils, which ceased to exist on March 31. The new council will not know until June if its application for lottery money has succeeded. Sir Cenydd Traherne leased the house and gardens to the councils for 99 years for a peppercorn rent in the 1930s, and they are still owned by the family. Sir Cenydd, who died last year, stipulated that they were to be used for educational purposes, horticulture and public enjoyment. The house was built in 1893 for the coal and shipping millionaire John Cory, and the 55 acre gardens were designed 10 years later by the landscape architect Thomas Mawson, working with Cory's son Reginald. Their design remains virtually unchanged. The two men toured Europe, importing ideas and ornaments. The gardens were laid out as a series of green rooms walled with topiary - years before the more famous 'outdoor rooms' of Sissinghurst, Kent - with a fountain based on one excavated at Pompeii.

and a canal filled with water lilies. They are a big attraction and host numerous outdoor events, including concerts and plays. The house will be handed over to the Welsh Residuary Body to find a new tenant. A study in the latest issue of the Museums Journal found widespread fear of the reorganisation among local authority museums and independent museums which have received council grants. Welsh and Scottish museums are particularly worried. Glasgow's face cuts of almost 10 per cent, with closed days proposed, and the museum education department is in line for savage cuts. The North is also seriously affected. Hull museums propose closing for one day a week and imposing admission charges on non-resident visitors. Museums in Bath and Bristol are facing big budget cuts and a moratorium on filling vacant positions. Buckinghamshire is among the worst hit counties in the South-east. The museum at Aylesbury, which reopened after renovation last year, is set to lose 30 per cent of its funding.

Drugs 'planted' on lorry drivers

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

TWO British lorry drivers who claim they were duped by heroin dealers will appear in court in Bulgaria today to appeal against their conviction for drug smuggling. Both were sentenced to 7½ years in jail. Last May John Mills, aged 41, from north London, was hired by an Essex haulage company to take Ford vehicle parts to Turkey. He asked a friend, Peter Hobbs, also 41, to accompany him and navigate. They picked up the lorry from Edmonton. While they were in a Turkey, Mills was asked to make a detour and pick up an order in Bulgaria. In early June, the two men were arrested in Bulgaria after 20kgs of heroin, worth more than £600,000, had been found in an outside compartment of their lorry. They were charged with heroin smuggling, and a trial set for October. They were detained in prison in Sofia during which time Hobbs, who suffers from depression, became ill through dehydration. They eventually stood trial in February this year and were each jailed for 7½ years. They were also both fined £1,500. The two men are now appealing against their conviction. They claim that they were the innocent dupes of drug smugglers who had hidden the heroin and arranged

with accomplices to remove it when the lorry returned to England. Dorothy Lawrence, Mills's girlfriend, says he has no idea when the drugs were put in the lorry. "When they set off the box on the side of the lorry was empty apart from some tea and some water they put in there so they could brew up some tea on the journey," she said. "John doesn't know where the heroin would have been put in. He can't understand why they are there - he keeps saying 'We didn't do anything'." Mrs Hobbs reported her husband missing when he failed to return for a family birthday. "They left the lorry on at least two occasions in Turkey," says Mrs Hobbs. "It [the placing of the drugs] could have happened then." Steven Jakobi of Fair Trials Abroad, which has assisted the two men, says it is hard to believe that if the men had been involved they would have placed the drugs in such an obvious place. He believes they may be the latest victims of smugglers who see lorry drivers as a risk-free way of smuggling drugs into the United Kingdom. Mr Jakobi suggests there are now many lorry drivers in jails in Spain, France and Morocco who have been victims of such scams. There are around 400 Europeans in jail in Morocco of whom 40 are British, including a number of drivers.

Leeds mugging death sparks 'spy' cameras dispute

Councillors concerned as minister calls for closed circuit TV in wake of fatal inner city attack



Martin Wainwright on views of CCTV

PLANS to install a closed circuit TV system in the Leeds inner city area of Chapeltown - where war veteran Stefan Popovich died of a heart attack after being dragged from his car - have been given fresh impetus by the attack. Junior Home Office minister Timothy Kirkhope, whose Leeds NE constituency in-

cludes the area, called for the rapid installation of a £200,000 scheme he has backed under the Government's City Challenge competition. "Had it been in place there is a strong possibility one camera would have assisted in identifying the culprit," he said yesterday, as West Yorkshire police appealed for witnesses to the attack on Mr Po-

Father died helping daughter in pub brawl

A MAN of 60 died of a heart attack as he tried to rescue his daughter from a brawl, police in Oxford said yesterday. John Burge had gone to the aid of his 17-year-old daughter Helen, and another girl, as they were assaulted by youths outside a pub near the family's house in Oxford on Sunday night. A post mortem found he received no direct injury in the fight. Detective Sergeant Philip Dennis, who said the death was not being treated as murder, added: "The post

mortem revealed Mr Burge received no assault injury which would have contributed to his death. "Two girls, one of them his daughter, received slight injuries in the disturbance outside the pub and we are trying to get together details of what led to those assaults." Sgt Dennis, of Thames Valley police, said: "We will piece together what happened and sort out charges once that has happened. Because the heart attack was brought on by the stress, we are still in-

vestigating the events leading up to the incident." The pub's manager, Sally Hendy, 31, said: "It was kicking off time. Two young girls were punched by a group of lads and girls, and one went to get the father from the house next door and he came to help." Mr Burge, who has a heart bypass operation six years ago, struggled to help his daughter but was punched to the floor by others in the group, according to witnesses. He then had a heart attack and died at the scene.

area, said: "CCTV must be installed with full consultation so Chapeltown people feel it is to protect them and not spy on them." He added: "None of this will bring Mr Popovich back or prevent another murder next week. But we have to grasp the nettle on some of these social issues." Mr Popovich, a retired bus driver, was attacked in a side street after missing a turning in an area he frequently visited from his home in Oldham, Greater Manchester, to visit Serbian friends. He was a well known member of Britain's Serbian community, which yesterday joined his wife Dragica, 65, in appealing for help in catching the killer. The couple met in a refugee camp in postwar Germany and came to Britain with only £1, building a successful life in their adopted home. Mrs Popovich said: "We were so happy here, and we had so many English friends. We have a lovely family and two sons we are so proud of." Mr Kirkhope said CCTV could be introduced next month if the City Challenge bid were successful.

Tories hope to see tide turning in damage limitation exercise

Patrick Wintour on Government's hopes to keep Labour to a 3,000-5,000 majority in Thursday's Staffordshire byelection

THE Conservative Party is hoping to restrict the size of an expected Labour victory in Thursday's Staffordshire South-East byelection to a majority of between 3,000 to 5,000 and then claim it as the first clear sign that the anti-Government tide is receding. The size of the Labour majority will depend on the turnout which is expected to be relatively high despite the Easter break. The Conservatives are likely to argue a Labour majority below 10,000 shows that Mr Major's Government has turned the corner since the nearby Dudley West byelection in December 1994 when Labour secured a 20,694 majority. It would be delighted by any defeat between 3,000 and 5,000 votes. The parties are despatching their big guns today as the Labour leader Tony Blair makes his third visit for an evening question and answer session. The Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, will whip up the faithful at a more traditional rally. Tory strategists, inured to huge byelection swings against the Government, are privately looking for signs that its intensive campaign has reaped rewards. Conservative Central Office has tried to inject some new edge into its campaigning by drafting in Alan Duncan, the energetic parliamentary private secretary to party chairman Bryan Mawhinney. Mr Duncan, an astute campaigner, has been in the constituency for seven weeks trying to unsettle Labour. His style has been designed to kill Labour issues in their



rather than defence tracks but has little positive to say about the Government's record. "The Conservatives are happy that the anti-Government bile that dominated so many byelections has subsided into a general dislike of the Government's incompetence and greyness, complaints that strategists believe can be addressed before the general election. Labour, boosted yesterday by an Easter visit from the deputy leader, John Prescott, and a 72 per cent contact rate with voters, will counter that Dudley West is not a good comparison, arguing this constituency has a far younger electorate with little or no tradition of voting Labour. With Labour needing a swing of 6.3 per cent to take the seat, a Labour majority of 7,000 would require a 13 per cent swing assuming a relatively high turnout. Labour is also preparing to argue that the Conservative candidate, Jimmy James, believed that the seat could be won at the outset of the campaign, so preventing the majority crumbling. Even Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, last week told shoppers: "Jimmy James should be the first beneficiary of the growing feelgood factor". The words are likely to haunt him.

Ashdown attacks 'Tory tax con'

Patrick Wintour on Lib Dem drive for national victory

THE LIBERAL Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown, yesterday urged his party's local election candidates to turn May 2 into a springboard for the general election by consolidating their place as the second party of local government. In a letter tralling the key themes of his party's campaign, Mr Ashdown urged Lib Dem councillors and candidates to convince voters that they were paying for income tax cuts with council tax rises and cuts in council budgets. "It is not easy trying to square the circle of this annual Conservative con-trick," he wrote. "The sterling effort of local councillors of all parties in setting budgets over the last couple of years has never been given the recognition it deserves."

The Conservatives are defying about 1,000 seats, if predictions that they will lose 500 seats prove correct, their tally will hit a record low. However, Central Office hopes that better results in byelections since last autumn will be a trend confirmed in next month's vote. The Tories can hardly do worse than last year, when their national share fell to 25 per cent and set the current record low. They lost more than 2,000 seats mainly to Labour, which gained 1,848 seats, more than three times its previous record. The Lib Dems gained 500 seats. It was the first time since 1990 that the Lib Dems had made fewer net gains than Labour, but Mr Ashdown's party still ended up with 5,043 councillors to the Tories' 4,885. It controlled 35 councils, against the Tories' 31. Most seats being contested this year are those won in 1992, which was a month after John Major's general election victory and a very good local election year for his party.

Law Society loses PR chief as dispute rumbles on

Clare Dyer Legal Correspondent

THE dispute between senior officials at the Law Society and its president, Martin Mears, has taken another casualty, with the announcement today that Sue Stapely, head of public relations, is to depart. She will become a director of the communications consultancy Fishburn Hedges. Her decision to leave comes less than a month after Andrew Lockley, director of corporate and regional affairs, announced his departure. Mr Mears, the anti-establishment outsider elected last

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News in brief

Missing schoolgirl found safe

A MISSING schoolgirl, Deo Adebayo, was found safe yesterday at a railway station less than a mile from her home. The station manager at Dartford, Kent, alerted police when he recognised the 15-year-old. Police said she was returning home voluntarily.

Slimming pills may be banned

MINISTERS are considering banning some slimming pills, the Department of Health said yesterday after reports of a confidential document linking the amphetamine-based drugs with 15 deaths.

Toxic cloud closes M1

THE M1 motorway was closed for more than two hours and people were advised to stay indoors yesterday after a toxic yellow cloud of nitric acid gas escaped from an industrial plant.

Alien beach 'challenge'

THE North of England's toughest tourist challenge is looking for a single-minded promoter. Limitless imagination heads the list of qualities demanded for the holder of the new post, who will start work on a beach so black and ominous that it was used for the opening sequences of the film Alien.

Fish and chips world record

MORE than 12,000 Australians queued at Harry Ramsden's fish restaurant in Melbourne to break the world record for fish and chips served in a day, the company said yesterday.

Bank holiday taken too far

A bank was yesterday reviewing security arrangements after staff left one of its branches unlocked. A woman customer walked into Barclays in Muswell Hill, North London, at 10.50am on Good Friday to find it deserted.

Ill-health retirements at record Education used as 'political football' Doubts on Labour plans

Teachers 'papering cracks'

Donald MacLeod and John Carvel

TEACHERS are suffering stress as they paper over the cracks in education caused by constant change, underfunding and politicians' attempts to 'outdo each other', a teachers' leader said yesterday.

They say have produced record levels of ill-health retirements. Since the mid-1980s, when the Conservatives 'made education a political football', schools had faced a series of changes to the curriculum, testing and funding, said Mr Cole.

men's education changes, ill-health retirements had been running at about 1,500 a year. Last year they had quadrupled to more than 6,000.

Where the parties stand

Conservative, Labour, Lib-Dem. Selection, Opting Out, Resources, Private schools, Pre-school. Includes portraits of Gillian Shephard, David Blunkett, and Don Foster.



NASUWT conference delegates heard that the odds against good education were lengthening

He was applauded when he attacked the decision by Harriet Harman, Labour's health spokeswoman, to send her son to a grant maintained grammar school.

Arson attack at primary school in state of siege

John Carvel Education Editor. A HEAD teacher told last night how her primary school was put in a state of siege for six weeks, culminating in an arson attack on Easter Sunday.

Mrs Elderkin said that on Sunday evening a guard was posted at the school. He went back into the school building, lighted material was put in through the windows.

The school had no perimeter fence, eight gates to the site and 15 entry and exit doors. Teachers are working under stress because of known hostility towards them.

pressure. On the following weekend 30 high-level windows were kicked in, shattering glass into the school.

The school had no perimeter fence, eight gates to the site and 15 entry and exit doors.

Mr McAvoy said the union was not suggesting that the people who committed the arson attack were those involved in the earlier episodes of stoning or taunting.

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New cancer test 'could save 1,000 lives a year'

Chris Mill Medical Correspondent. ADDING a new test for a virus to the existing cervical screening programme could save 1,000 lives a year, scientists said yesterday.

Research from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and co-ordinators of the national cervical screening programme who have reviewed the scheme say it prevents nearly half potential cases of the cancer.

The study, published in the British Journal of Cancer, looked at the screening histories of 348 women with cervical cancer, compared to 677 healthy women.

potential to prevent 1,250 of those. The ICRF is supporting the addition to the routine screening programme of an extra test for a virus, known as HPV, which is believed to play a role in triggering the cancer.

mer chairman of the co-ordinators said: "We have found it feasible routinely to add the screening programme and would like to see this done nationally."

Record flights abroad for Easter break

Alex Bellon. THE Easter break has seen record numbers of people fly abroad, with passengers passing through Gatwick up 15 per cent on last year.

Keith Booker, said yesterday that the favourite destinations were the United States, the Caribbean, and Spanish and Mediterranean resorts, although short breaks for skiing trips and rugby tours were also popular.

through yesterday. The busiest day over Easter was Thursday, with 165,000 people. The most popular destinations were Florida, the Far East, Eilat on the Red Sea, and Turkey.

5,000 vehicles an hour leaving the West Country and Wales — double the normal weekend load — causing congestion eastbound on the M4 and northbound on the M5.

But the motoring organisations said that, as children were still on holiday, the rush back might be staggered over the week.

In the Commons, ministers of the crown read rapidly from scripts prepared for them by some Wykehamist in their private office, pausing only to scratch their private parts. This ensures that no hostages are offered up to fortune. Julian Critchley

Seoul orders troops to shoot first

Andrew Higgins
in Hong Kong

PRESIDENT Kim Young-sam ordered South Korea's military commanders yesterday to "immediately repel any provocation" by North Korea, as opponents accused his ruling party of exploiting tension to increase support in the elections on Thursday.

South Korean soldiers have been told to open fire on any North Korean troops who cross into the southern half of a demilitarised buffer zone which slices through the peninsula.

The order, reported last night by South Korea's Yonhap news agency, overturns a policy of issuing warnings before shooting. It also signals Seoul's determination to halt what Mr Kim yesterday condemned as Pyongyang's "reckless provocations".

US dismisses invasion threat

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton and the South Korean president, Kim Young-sam, will discuss the tension in Korea at a meeting next week, but the United States sees no imminent threat of invasion from the North.

the White House said yesterday. "We haven't seen anything that indicates an offensive build-up that implies hostilities of that nature," its spokesman said. — Reuter.

Washington is keen to avoid an escalation of tension in case it upsets a scheduled visit to Seoul next week by President Clinton.

Mr Clinton is seen as the main target of North Korea's belligerence. North Korea hopes to pressure Washington into negotiating a formal peace treaty to replace the 1953 truce, a task the US insists should be done by Seoul and Pyongyang.

danger of losing its majority in Thursday's vote. Opinion polls conducted before the incursions showed a quarter of the electorate undecided.

News in brief

Turkish forces 'kill 90 Kurd guerrillas'

TURKISH security forces have killed 90 Kurdish guerrillas in the south-east of the country in clashes in which 27 soldiers also died, the Anatolian news agency said yesterday. The fighting took place in the mountainous north of the province of Diyarbakir and in the nearby Bingol province. The agency did not say when.

UN team enters Ogoniland

A UNITED NATIONS team turned its attention yesterday to Nigeria's volatile Ogoniland, a major focus of its mission to investigate the execution of nine minority rights activists, including the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa. The four-man team has left for Port Harcourt, capital of the south-eastern Rivers State of which Ogoniland is a part, on a three-day visit.

Colombo takes extra powers

THE Sri Lankan government extended a state of emergency nationwide yesterday to give itself the power to postpone local elections, a member of the ruling People's Alliance coalition said. "The opposition will love this," the alliance MP said. "It means they don't have to test themselves at the polls and they can criticise the government [for pulling out of the democratic process]."

Cohens mass for prayer

THOUSANDS of Jews named Cohen held Passover prayers yesterday at the Western Wall in Jerusalem (right), while a group of about 40 extremists tried to push their way into a Muslim holy site.



Flushed with grace

THE cleanliness of Singapore's public toilets and its people's ability to sing and appreciate good music are markers of progress towards a more gracious society, according to the prime minister, Goh Chok Tong.



One-way ... Streets are named after Marx and Lenin, but the West Bengal government is accused of betraying workers PHOTOGRAPH PABLO BARTHLOMEW

Mills idle as West Bengal turns right

Suzanne Goldenberg reports from Phuleswar Junction on hardship brought by market forces to a communist-ruled state

SUJIT GHORAU's hands are idle now, but for 25 years they transformed the pulpy stalks of the jute plant into money. Winding, twisting, loading bobbins, shovelling waste: a lifetime in the mills of West Bengal.

in a voice by introducing *panchayats* — elected councils. But in 1994 the state government launched a new industrial policy, declaring its allegiance to the market reforms that the rest of India had embraced a few years earlier, and courting foreign investors.

the huge rural vote, and to the middle classes who are appreciative of a government that has exhibited little of the craven lust for money that has characterised politics in northern India, and acted to stem religious violence.

Quebec saviour tested by cuts

Claire Trovato in Toronto

QUEBEC'S popular separatist leader, Lucien Bouchard, is hoping that his image as the province's most favoured son will still shine despite the bitter economic message he utters constantly.

It is six months since the separatists narrowly lost the referendum on sovereignty and three months since Mr Bouchard left his job as opposition leader to be acclaimed leader of the Parti Québécois and head of the Quebec government. The honeymoon with the voters, who clearly adore him, may soon be over.

According to Mr Bouchard, separation from the Canadian federation is still the *raison d'être* of the Parti Québécois — but to reach that goal the province must first have a sound economy.

So the tough words which have rung out from the federal government and the other provinces over the last three years — "we have to cut the deficit" — now echo across Quebec.

The latest government spending figures for next year show a \$1.17 billion drop (\$290 million). But the estimated deficit for the financial year just ended reaches \$3.8 billion.

At first glance, motoring organisations may look the same. But, on closer inspection, there are big differences. Choose the cheaper cover in the table shown and you'll pay £29.50. If you then break down, the motoring organisation will attempt to repair you at the roadside, but you will be charged for call-out, labour and parts.

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Dudayev blames 'third force'

David Hearst in Moscow

AS RUSSIAN forces, oblivious to President Boris Yeltsin's ceasefire declaration, closed in on rebels holding three towns in southern Chechnya yesterday, the Chechen separatist leader Dudaev accused the president's closest advisers of sabotaging last week's peace initiative.

Muslim in hiding for nine months

A Bosnian on the run in Serb territory has finally reached safety, writes Samir Arnaut in Frkici

DASAN ORIC, a Bosnian Muslim, on the run after the Serb conquest of Srebrenica, hid in hostile territory for nine months before he heard the Bosnia peace deal had been signed.

'There was no food, water or wood. Those nine months seemed like nine years'

mourned him as dead a thousand times. I held my hopes until the new year and then I was certain he was dead. When I saw him on television yesterday I simply couldn't believe it.

Exiles' schism boosts Saudis

Islamist spats in London lend the regime room to manoeuvre, David Hirst in Riyadh writes

NO SOONER had Mohammed al-Mas'ari won his hearing against deportation to Dominica on March 5 than his Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR) fell apart.

The founder of the CDLR is Mr Mas'ari's father, Abdullah, aged 80, a former Sharia judge. Al-Sharq al-Awsat carries the text of the letter that Dr Faqih sent him explaining the break-up.



Land of contradictions... A street in the medieval part of Riyadh, far in spirit from the Saudi capital's modern districts

the local CDLR denounced him, too. The House of Saud would have been saintly not to exploit these personal charges, along with the ideological schism.

Saudi society breaks down into two main camps - Westernised liberals and various shades of Islamists. The Islamist schism is a relief to the liberals, who had mixed feelings about Mr Mas'ari from the outset.

London to learn which princes take commissions, which ministers abuse their positions. It was almost as if the two, unable to agree on fundamentals, resorted to trash propaganda instead.

strength from the same constituency as it does - the deeply devout, conservative Nejd heartland. The CDLR's establishment in London was a shrewd move, since it placed the Islamist struggle in the context of the worldwide human rights movement.

'I have no liking for the ruling family but I would fight with them against Mas'ari, who would return us to the Stone Age'

liberals embarrasses the Islamists. The broad goal of the Islamists - or those who think like Mr Mas'ari - is revolutionary, almost unique in Muslim history: a clerically led state, with religious "commissars" in every department, which would probably be even more archaic and totalitarian in spirit than Khomeini's Iran.

Tehran trying to topple Labour, claims Peres

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

IRAN is pressing Islamist groups to mount more attacks in Israel, according to the Israeli prime minister, Shimon Peres. He accused Tehran of working to bring down Israel's Labour-led government in next month's general election.

The Israeli army, meanwhile, has laid yet another charge against Iran. It said that Shin Bet (secret services) agents had captured a Palestinian member of Islamic Jihad, who confessed that he was secretly trained in Iran.

News in brief

Russia scores first with US satellite launch

RUSSIA will launch a US-built satellite for the first time today under a \$1 billion programme, opening a new chapter in US-Russian space co-operation.

Beijing swipe at Britain

Beijing attacked Britain yesterday as a committee responsible for reasserting Chinese control over Hong Kong prepared to hold its first meeting in the British colony.

Molester released

Convicted child molester Larry McQuay, aged 32, who had threatened to kill his next victim if the state does not castrate him, was released from prison yesterday and placed in a halfway house in San Antonio, Texas state officials said.

Body fragments dumped in river

A RUSSIAN immigrant Aheld on suspicion of dumping body parts in 10 dustbin bags into a New Jersey river will be charged with murder, officials said yesterday.

Chill kills 600

Six hundred people froze to death in Moscow this winter and two others were killed by falling icicles. All had been drinking, city authorities said yesterday.

Eruption 'close'

The volcano in Montserrat's Soufriere Hills could explode within days, scientists on the Caribbean island warned yesterday on the sixth day of heightened alert.

Wine price rise

The long summer last year means the price of a bottle of 1995 Bordeaux will rise by at least 20 per cent, leading wineyards have forecast, writes Paul Webster in Paris.

Chernobyl talks

Politicians and nuclear experts from around the world will meet tomorrow in Vienna for a conference on the consequences on health and the environment after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster 10 years ago.

Boy shoots mother

A Turkish boy aged 11 shot dead his sleeping mother in the town of Butca on the orders of his father, who suspected her of having affairs, local newspapers reported yesterday.

I must say I thought her very restrained. She cried softly at dinner, and was sick so politely I never even noticed and didn't even look drunk to me. Michele Hanson

st

Quebec saviour tested by cuts

RAC

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Diary

Matthew Norman

I AM pleased to announce that, in keeping with the spirit of the age, the Diary has been privatised. From now on, anyone seeking publicity can buy it, while those officially deemed desperate to see their names in print will be charged automatically, whether they asked for the mention or not. For example, calling him "parliamentary democracy's answer to Benny from Crossroads" could set Jerry Hayes MP back £200, while any reference to Michael Winner's minuscule sperm count will cost him £470 (£400, plus VAT at 17.5 per cent). If the bill is not settled within 30 days, bailiffs will be instructed to distract goods to the value, Vanessa Feltz, David Mellor, Liz Hurley, Jim Davidson, Peter Stringfellow, Paula Yates, Andrew Ridgeley and the Reg Varney doppleganger Tony Banks MP all come into this category. "You're quite right," says Max Clifford. "People who are totally self-obsessed should have to pay whatever the equal. Max sees great business opportunities. "If I want to place a story about a client - having it off with Diana, for instance - the tabloids won't be too interested. I'll come straight from me; it just looks like PR. But if it's in your Diary, in a paper that carries weight like the Guardian, it's got credibility. It could be worth a few grand, certainly. I tell you, you could make a fortune." I could, Max, and I will. Max Clifford has been charged £587.50 (VAT included) for this story.

Real dirt flies in an unreal world

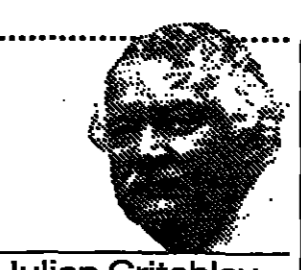
Commentary Hugo Young

ONE year from now, other things being equal, the election will be coming to an end. As everyone predicts, the campaign will be the dirtiest ever known. Every campaign I remember has been the dirtiest ever known. Sincere anticipation greets the possibility. The political class salivates, watching the dirt start to materialise. Expecting it, we legitimise it, even as we sagely shake our heads. Already the parties are showing they will not let us down. More certain than the fifth, however, will be something more corrosive. Poison can live with, but emptiness is less forgivable. The void, like the black hole, is already being prepared. Its narrow moles are clear: unscrupulous aggression about the other side, mute defensiveness about one's own. The Tories are defensive about what they haven't done. Labour about what they will not promise. The Lib Dems, though a

less culpable case, will be lured like the big boys towards the politics of process over substance: perfection of soundbite over dealing with the issues. The big issues will be those the parties run away from. It is a delatol definition but not, I think, a false one. What are these, the real, big, epoch-defining issues? Many lead back to what's called, deadeningly, the environment. They're far from dead, but the word turns them into deadness. How can economic growth be reconciled with sustainable resources? How can more cars co-exist with pure air and the survival of country? How is cutting unemployment consistent with husbandry of the earth? How, again, can a beef industry be reinvented, or else dietary habits altered, to preclude the poisoning of nations? How, in another field, can this nation organise itself to house its people properly? How - the over-arching issue - does the politician of the moment, the prime minister presumptive, address the long-term crisis in many fields that is so plainly consequent on the worship of short-term market forces? Each of these, it can be agreed, is an inescapable question. The answer may be disputable but the question is not invented - and in one paragraph I can only skim the

Telegraph and the FT didn't carry a word. The tabloids, of course, were nowhere. The BBC didn't mention Real World after lunch-time. C4 News, not usually a slave to stale agendas, missed out completely. The weekend press was customarily uninquiring. All became co-conspirators in silence. They could offer reasons for this. Real World might be called a bunch of do-gooders, whose answers to the questions tend to leftness rather than the opposite. Some weeks ago, Tony Blair gave the group a footnote mention in his big number on the environment. They could be dismissed either as a bogus assemblage of environmentalist/third world/social justice/political reform lobbyists who have nothing genuinely in common, or as a typical agit-prop consensus in favour of higher public spending. Actually, the media's neglect has a more obvious root,

How the cat gets out of the bag



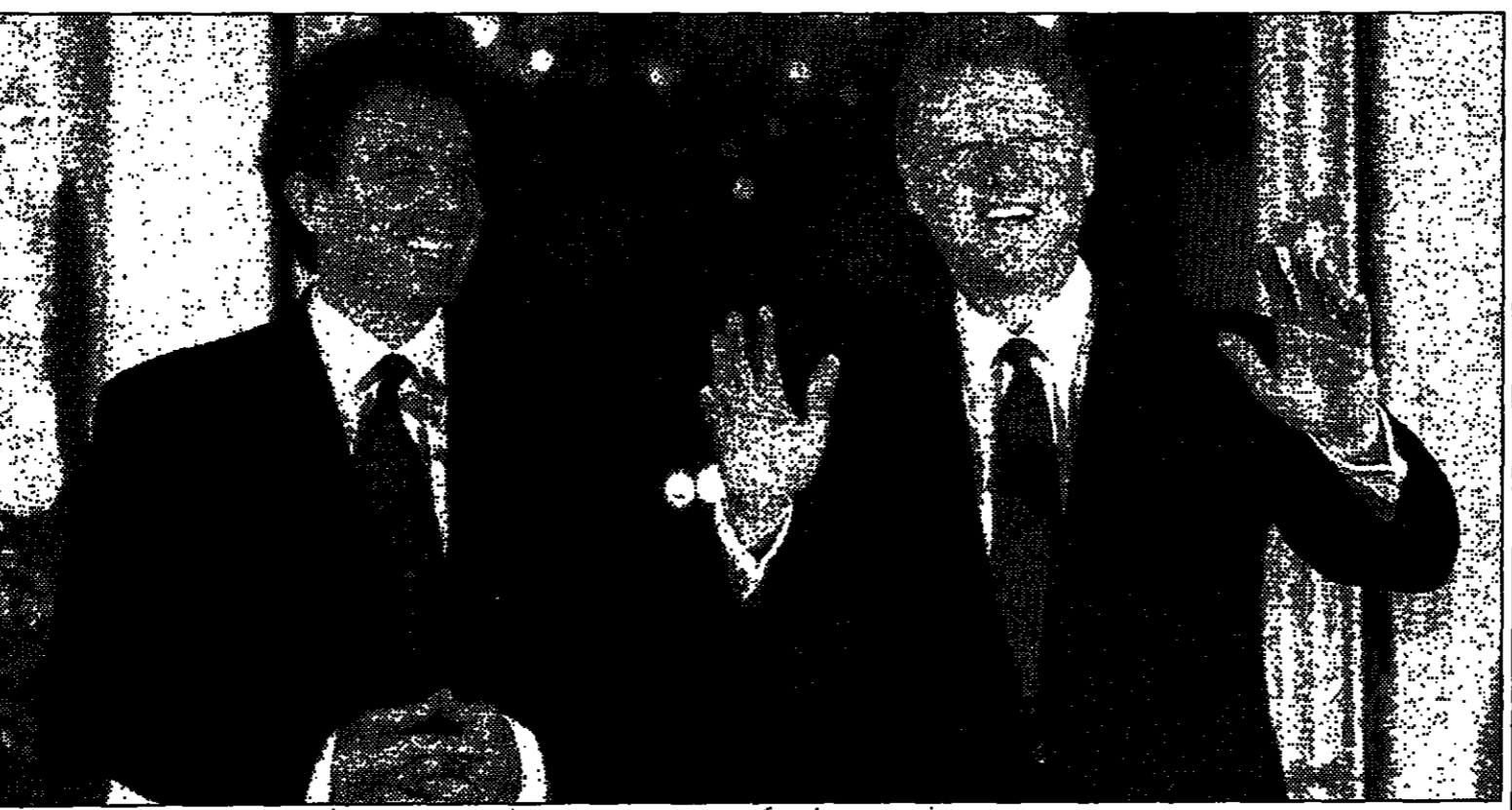
Julian Critchley

As my colleagues take advantage of this brief interlude to prepare for the next season of political gaffes, I cannot help wondering why even the most experienced of politicians drop bricks that bring them into public ridicule. Kenneth Clarke cannot remember which steelworks has been closed down, and has to be gently corrected. Michael Heseltine still seems to believe that after 30 years of politics, there is such a thing as a "private" meeting. Peter Temple-Morris gives an interview in Ireland to a journal no one on this side of the water has ever heard of, and is appealed to find his view all over the British press. Journalist-politicians like Julian Critchley write anonymous articles in the Observer, only to be forced to own up. Clarke, who is a rumbustious performer, could not have been properly briefed. What, after all, are private secretaries for if not to guide their "masters" through the minefields of Consett? Heseltine's case was even more extraordinary. Summoned at the last moment to take the Prime Minister's place at a "private" meeting of unbraced small-businessmen, he discarded John Major's script (Michael is never very happy reading other peoples' texts) and started to improvise. Warning in his theme, he took only to scratch their private parts. This ensures that no hostages are offered up to fortune. But there is always the danger of the man in a shabby mac, standing at the back of an Aldershot hall at election time, waiting to pick up, and broadcast, on them, or with the date incorrectly filled in. All to buy time.

All polling evidence shows that faith in progress is no longer the condition of Britain

which is precisely that Real World is challenging the only political shape the media understand, the party shape, which suffers from all the limitations party politicians impose upon it. They verified just what Real World is on about, namely the inability of this vast apparatus that we call the democratic machine to engage with anything that has not been pre-trained of all awkward reality by the doctors of anti-philosophy who want to decide what poli-

WHEN Peter Tatchell wrote to London Electricity asking for compensation for computer material damaged by an interruption to the power supply (an habitual problem in his south London block), the denial of the request came from Tabitha Hussain (Mrs) of customer relations. It was the company's fault, Mrs Hussain admitted, but ensuring uninterrupted power is the responsibility of the customer. If Mr Tatchell wishes to avoid it happening again, she advised, he could go out and buy himself a generator! It's so simple - but then all the best ideas are!



Togetherness... Tony Blair and Bill Clinton all smiles in London last year

Oh to be my sane and rational friend Paul Johnson at Easter. Bless the old boy's sturdy heart, he's been on typically versatile form this weekend. One moment in the Observer he's describing heaven as sitting in a Parisian cafe ogling the young Brigitte Bardot dressed as a schoolgirl (Bardot as a schoolgirl, that is, not Paul); the next, in the Sunday Telegraph, he's on about his visit to Rome to see the Pope. When Paul Johnson (I) thrust a fat volume into the frail Pontifical arms, John Paul (II) was at first dismayed, but then - no, we shall let Paul take up the story. "When He saw it was the history of Christianity," by a certain P Johnson - "in Polish, his splendid old eyes lit and a vast, benevolent grin spread over his face." Prepare to be moved. "I was handed one of the roses he delights to give, and another went to my wife Mari-gold who, as always when she is supremely happy and uplifted, was weeping." There are no words.

Toes in the water

Patrick Wintour argues that Tony Blair will have to tread carefully to gain kudos from his meeting with President Clinton, while Martin Walker, below, plots the points of mutual interest

secretary and a veteran of Neil Kinnock's ill-fated 30-minute meeting with Ronald Reagan in 1988, will try to ensure the minimum number of "Blair smudged" headlines. It will be difficult. Such is the misplaced self-importance of the British, anything short of city-wide gridlock in honour of the Labour leader is likely to turn into a cruel snub to "Tony Who?" However, the Democrat administration will pull out the stops for Blair. They badly would like to see the back of John Major and Blair's pollster Philip Gould played some small part advising President Clinton's 1992 campaign. Both leaders have a communitarian philosophy that gives a special place to individual responsibility. Blairite-Brownite economics is clearly influenced by the work of the US Labour Secretary Robert Reich, who argues in an age of mobile

trans-national capital that the skills of your workforce and the quality of your national infrastructure are probably the two main assets a government can improve. Both economies are creating jobs, but cannot restore a sense of job security. Both parties are taking an interest in stakeholding as one means of restoring the feel-good factor. Blair will also feel comfortable with a Clinton once again pumping conservative themes such as the virtues of school uniforms, no leniency for teenage killers and support for V chips in television. In short, New Democrat will be meeting New Labour. The Blair staff are aware of Clinton's ambivalent image for Britons and are as eager to point out the discrepancies as the similarities. The separation of powers between the Presidency and the Congress puts a constitutional roadblock in the way of Clinton that Tony Blair, assuming an

overall Commons majority, will not face. But that puts even more pressure on Blair to be clear-eyed if he wins power, his aides say. The Blair camp also argue that one of the biggest single errors made by the inexperienced Clinton team was to campaign on one issue and then to govern on another. Instead of making his first governing task the remaking of the welfare state - the election-trail promise - Clinton got lost in side-issues such as gays in the military, or took on the gigantic task of the NHS's health services. The health reforms collapsed in big government solutions, and the Republicans are "now promising to tie the welfare system round the President's neck and sink to the bottom." Blair aims to prevent the equivalent of a Republican backlash in Britain by not promising too much in his manifesto, but carrying it out in government. Thus Labour aims to make no policy pledges that cannot be funded by transferring resources from existing budgets. If Blair has learnt one lesson from Clinton before today, it is that you deliver best by promising little.

FOREIGN trips are not just accidents waiting to happen, they don't bring you votes at home. However, opposition leaders cannot avoid them. They are a necessary part of adding to your image. America is the only superpower left on earth, and Tony Blair has to be seen not just shaking its hands, but making a splash. It gives kudos, but also presents Blair the Blair chief-of-staff and for four years a British diplomat in Washington close to the Clinton camp. On the PR side, Alastair Campbell, his press

Beyond all sentiment

He could almost be the Stealth candidate. Tony Blair's first trip to the White House is so far barely a dot on the outer rim of the American radar screen, generating much less attention than the now-regular visits by Garry Admans. There has been a cornucopia of approving profiles in those increasingly rare magazines which contain words rather than pictures, like The New Yorker and The New Republic. Political junkies know his face from the C-SPAN channel's broadcast of Question Time, and inside the State Department they already see him as the prime-minister-in-waiting. In a handful of key places, Blair will get a friendly reception. The White House is putting out the welcome mat, and the Democratic

National Committee is talking about restoring the fraternal party ties they enjoyed with Labour when Roy Jenkins and Denis Healey were commuting across the Atlantic in the 1960s and 1970s. Thanks to some careful advance work by Gordon Brown at the Treasury and the Federal Reserve, there is none of that rippling of alarm at Labour's reform plans. There are no audible off-the-record grumbles about unsound allies from Pentagon or CIA. In the way that Neil Kinnock's White House call was soured in advance a decade ago. Beyond these arcane levels, Tony Blair has yet to make any kind of mark on the US. Little has been made of the attempts by the Conservative party to smear him in advance as just an-

other pinko Labour peacenik. From a conventional point of view, this lack of attention is Blair's problem, a symbol of Britain's declining weight in world affairs. This Washington visit should be his opportunity, a way to show that while the old special relationship has crumbled in John Major's hands, it can be restored and modernised by Clinton and Blair. There is now a serious prospect that the rest of this decade could see two like-minded Oxford men, each one a lawyer and married to a lawyer, governing in tandem. They have a very great deal in common, from a readiness to talk of politics in terms of religion to a deliberate rejection of every ideological tradition of the

Protect Your Loved Ones With a Will. Helping practically every way we can. Action for Blind people's FREE Will Making Advice Booklet provides useful information on how to make or update your will.



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Form with fields for Name, Title, Address, and Postcode. Includes a section for 'Please send me your free Will Making Advice Booklet'.

Brian Abel-Smith

A religion of doing good

Brian Abel-Smith, who has died aged 68, first rose to prominence thanks to a memorandum in the 1963 Guillebaud inquiry into the costs of the National Health Service...

Smith was the department's greatest star. Even after 1991 he was extraordinarily active in the school, still advising governments all over the world...

There are few academics who have changed the world — and fewer who have changed it for the better. He was one



Brian Abel-Smith... demonstrating the permanence of poverty

by the figures." Abel-Smith was rather good with figures, a strength lacking in most Labour activists. His work on this front helped secure the health services from serious political mauling for more than half a century...

Lola Beltran

The voice of her nation

JUST occasionally a singer emerges whose career is a metaphor for a nation's identity. Lola Beltran was one of those singers whose songs are markers for people's lives...

ing the trademark shawl around her shoulders. Then, in exaggerated despair, backed by a vast mariachi band, she would slip from confidentiality and barely-sung whispers into long dramatically-held notes...

ent Pedro Almodovar was amongst the audience at a Spanish royal command performance by Beltran. This was her Soy Infiel (I Am Unhappy) to feature as the opening theme for his eighties movie, Woman on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown...



La Grande... the sound of passion and desire, joy and risk

Letters

Paul Z Jackson writes: Many listeners to Round Britain Quiz will have enjoyed the intellectual sense of humour of Gordon Clough (Obituaries, April 8). He set many of the questions and took great delight in tempting panelists...

Birthdays

Saverio Ballesteros, golfer; 30. Jean-Paul Belmondo, actor; 63. Isia Duncan-Smith, Conservative MP; 42. Lord (Gerry) Fitt; 70. Hannah Gordon, actress; 55. Roger Harrison, chairman, Toyne Hall; 63. Hugh Raftery, Playboy publisher; 70. Tom Jackson, former postman's leader; 71. Alan Knott, cricketer; 50. Tom Lehrer, songwriter; 68. Martin Margiela, fashion designer; 42. Peter Moores, director and heir, Littlewoods Pools; 64. Alex Moulton, bicycle designer; 76. The Rt Rev Gerald Moverley, Roman Catholic Bishop of Tallinn; 74. Sara Parkyn, environmentalist; Carl Perkins, rock singer and guitarist; 64. Dennis Quaid, actor; 42. Ann Robinson, toxicologist; 63. Richard Rose, political scientist; 63. Valerie Singleton, broadcaster; 59.

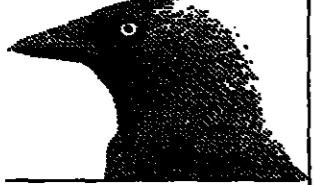
In Memoriam

RUMOLD, Michael Douglas, 31.07.84 (1949-96). His laughter was better than the best in the morning.

Engagements

ANN HOPE HORROCKS and GEOFFREY ROBERT WILSON. Announcement of engagement of Ann Hope Horrocks daughter of the late Mr & Mrs J. Horrocks and Geoffrey Robert Wilson, son of the late Mr & Mrs G. Wilson. To place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4267. Fax 0171 713 4125.

Jackdaw



Out of the blue

EVEN THE seemingly harmless assumption that an "average" number of asteroids strikes the Earth each year may be misleading. Consider the word "average" carefully. For example, the death toll from natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, typhoons, tornadoes, droughts, floods and landslides is dominated by the very largest of these events...

Iron And Ice by John Lewis (Addison-Wesley) in the New Scientist. Underground EYELESS, faceless, legless tube... O worm, you're not much amused; Yet, living drainpipe, burrowing ground, Digging earth and making mounds. You plough, aerate, and slowly harrow. To help us grow sweet peas and marrows. Heartless, though, you can't be called. As you've got five of these, I'm told; Drying out is your pet hate Because you have to estivate! And those who think when you're chopped in two; There'll be twice as many of you. Are WRONG. That's not your nature; You're a complex, warm and lovely creature.

And although you don't seem to have much sense, In the soil you're very dense! I know you've really got a brain (or "ganglion"), you're a real brain "drain"! I'll finish now and say adieu. (Charles Darwin wrote a better obituary but this will do). We'll give you lots of humus to chew, Just count on us, we count on YOU! Jose Warrander's Ode To The Worm, printed in this month's Community Recycling News. Thanks to Mike Thornon.

Colour bind THE FIRST girl I fell in love with was a blue-eyed blonde, and for a period of three or four years I only went out with white girls. Now, for the past two years, I have only dated black girls... I met my current girlfriend at a friend's place. It all happened in a very natural way... I didn't consider, or even give a thought to the fact that she

was black... The main problem we experience is having to deal with society and its hypocrisy. The worst is coming back from the cinema at 11pm and running into older guys in suits who are making their way home from the pub. I find that when the older generation gets drunk, the worst racist stereotypes about middle England come out and nothing can keep their mouths shut. These older white guys are unbearable, but not as bad as the black guys who walk up to my girlfriend and find any excuse to start a conversation where they can call her "sister". This happens almost daily in Brighton where we live... Some go as far as saying to her, just as I stand there next to her, "Why are you going out with this white oppressor?" This is so hypocritical, especially when I consider that a lot of my black friends boast about being down with their sisters, but will seize the first opportunity to go with the frocked redhead in the fish-n-chip shop... I also

have to admit that I see a lot of my white friends treating their black girlfriends like sex objects or prostitutes, because of this black sexuality myth. It has taken a while, but I now feel comfortable with my position in society as a white, Jewish B-boy, who happens to be attracted to a race that doesn't always accept me for who I am. The urban music and style mag True looks at interracial relationships in this extract from one of five interviews. No cracks 1. DO YOU ever use more lip balm than you planned? 2. HAS THE use of lip balm interfered with your job? 3. IS YOUR lip balm use causing conflict with your spouse or family? 4. DO YOU feel depressed, guilty, or remorseful after you use lip balm? 5. HAVE YOU ever had to or mislaid those around you about how much or how often you use? 6. DO YOU ever wish that you had never taken that first application or hit of lip balm? 7. DO YOU use lip balm in your car, at work, in the bathroom, on airplanes, or other public places? 8. ARE YOU experiencing financial difficulties due to your lip balm use? 9. DO YOU experience an anticipation high just knowing you are about to use lip balm? 10. WITHOUT using lip balm, do you have difficulty sleeping without taking a drink or another drug? 11. ARE YOU absorbed with the thought of getting coated even while interacting with a friend or loved one? 12. HAVE YOU begun to use lip balm while alone? 13. HAVE ANY of your friends or family suggested that you may have a problem? 14. HAVE YOU tried to quit or cut down on your lip balm use only to find that you couldn't? 15. DO YOU ever have feelings that people are talking about you or watching you? From the Self-Test for Lip Balm Addiction on the Lip Balm Anonymous homepage on the Internet. (http://user.s.aol.com/LipBalm41) Tomorrow, the pain, the suffering, the lous and highs of addiction as Lip Balm junkies tell their stories. Jackdaw wants your jecks. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713-4866; write Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Dan Glaister

صوتك من الاجل

Campaign against fat cats heats up, this page

Children do save pocket money, this page

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

صبرنا من الامهل

FinanceGuardian

London braced for shares turmoil as Dow plummets

Roger Cowe

FEAR of an end to UK interest rate cuts are expected to lead to a plunge in share prices today following a weekend of turmoil in American financial markets.

For Chancellor Kenneth Clarke to cut UK rates. The Dow Jones fell by more than 100 points when New York trading began yesterday, in reaction to employment data released on Friday when the market was closed.

Interest rates. Demand at yesterday's auction of government debt was poor, with the yield ending higher than expected.

meeting of the policy-setting Open Market Committee is scheduled for May 21. Economists still expect rates to fall on the Committee, but a half to the downward trend in the US, let alone any increase, would make it much more difficult for British rates to come down again.

about of job-shedding," they say. "Consumption will rise this year, but there will be no boom and the rise on spending will not alone be enough to keep manufacturing afloat. The danger must now be that the stock clear-out in manufacturing becomes a new recession."

James Capel economist Stephen King warned that the impact of US figures on European markets was likely to be limited. "When the February non-farm payrolls came out, the knock-on effect in terms of the European markets was quite small," he said. "This looks like a specific US problem."

American Notebook

Little reason for growth phobia



Mark Tran

DESPITE yesterday's turbulence on Wall Street, it is safe to bet that the Federal Reserve will leave interest rates alone at its next policy meeting at the end of May.

mists, the current rate of 5.5 per cent indicates that the economy is running at full speed. But, as Professor Robert Eisner of Northwestern University argues, the natural rate of unemployment theory falls short in many real-life situations.

To the surprise of the US financial markets, 140,000 jobs were created in March about twice general expectations. That came on top of the 624,000 new jobs in February, down from the initial estimate of 706,000 but still a hefty number.

Another argument against higher growth is that productivity has not improved enough to sustain faster economic activity. Non-inflationary growth depends on growth in the work force and growth in productivity - output per hour of work.

The hand-wringing in the bond market underlines the new conventional wisdom that growth above 2.5 per cent will ignite inflation. The Clinton administration has adopted this low-growth mind-set, although the President at times whinges about the Fed's meagre target.

Corporate chiefs in the US feel that better use of technology has made workers more productive. But the government statistics are underestimating productivity. As Edward Yardeni, chief economist with Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, argues, it is nearly impossible to measure output, especially in service sectors, where technology has become a big factor.

Whatever chance Mr Clinton had to shift the terms of debate at the Fed flew out the window when New York investment banker Felix Rohatyn withdrew his name for Fed vice-chairman, under a concerted Republican assault.

It is possible, however, that government statistics are underestimating productivity. As Edward Yardeni, chief economist with Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, argues, it is nearly impossible to measure output, especially in service sectors, where technology has become a big factor.

SLOW growth could pose a political problem for Mr Clinton in the presidential race, although now he is the front favourite. Even the most optimistic forecasters do not expect gross domestic product to grow by more than 2.3 per cent this year.

Corporate chiefs in the US feel that better use of technology has made workers more productive. But the government statistics are underestimating productivity. As Edward Yardeni, chief economist with Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, argues, it is nearly impossible to measure output, especially in service sectors, where technology has become a big factor.

Labour hits at fat cats 'collusion'

Richard Thomas

LABOUR will step up its campaign against a boardroom "fat cats" this week, ahead of a Stock Exchange bid to block proposals for full disclosure of the cost of company directors' pension payments.

"We will be pressing for full disclosure of the cost to companies of providing these pensions. Meanwhile, the Government, which promised at the time of the Greenbury report to introduce legislation if necessary, is trying to water it down."

Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, will accuse the Government and big business of colluding to dilute last year's recommendation from the Greenbury committee that the full capital costs of executive pensions be detailed in company reports.

Government hopes that Stock Exchange listing rules could be used in place of legislation to bring about reform had been promised, he said. In the latest round of the squabble, the Faculty of Actuaries and Institute of Actuaries (FIA) delivered a report to the Stock Exchange, setting out the options for disclosure.

Red Rose Economics

Workers put a stake up for sale

Richard Thomas continues the week's series testing out Labour's policies

STAKEHOLDING. Labour's new "big idea" is said to be employees of FT Group. "We've never called ourselves a stakeholding company," says chief executive Hilary Cropper. "Maybe we don't need to - we just do it."



Chief executive Hilary Cropper says City institutions favour FT's employee shareowners

Since the information technology company was established in 1983 by East European emigrant Steve Shirley, it has done everything New Labour wants: consultative committees, a community affairs manager, participative decision-making and - since 1991 - employee share ownership.

Over half the equity is owned by the 1,500 workers. According to Ms Cropper, who orchestrated the employee buy-out, the fusing of personal with corporate interest has been the driving force behind last year's 57 per cent increase in pre-tax profits.

Many Labour front-benchers argue that tackling unemployment, low pay and poor skills are more important than fiddling with corporate tax codes and board membership. It is hard to be a stakeholder without a job.

Only the state can deliver the goods here - the notion of companies acting as agents of social change in their local communities is a pipe dream, as Ms Cropper makes plain.

Pocket money soars by 17pc

Children spend most on sweets, but save more, writes Cliff Jones

CHILDREN have never had it so good, according to a report published today. Pocket money stands at £2.40 a week on average, 17 per cent more than last year, according to a survey by Birds Eye Walls.

they are underworked. A survey of 800 young people, conducted last year by NISB, revealed that almost 80 per cent of them believed that they could work harder for their money. Most agreed that they have it easier than their parents did when they were young.

Combined income for UK children averaged £4.85, 18 per cent more than last year. Children in Scotland received a 25 per cent raise to an average total income of £8.05 while young Londoners settled for £5.33. The only decrease was in the North-west, where income went down by 3 per cent to £3.97.

Despite the changes in earnings since last year, spending habits were unchanged. Most money was spent on ice cream and sweets, with magazines coming second and music third.



Rentokil chief £4m richer after cashing in on share options

Roger Cowe

RENTOKIL's chief executive, Clive Thompson, who will decide this week whether to increase his bid for business services rival BET, made more than £4 million from share options last year.

risen in value to just over £3 each by the time he exercised the options, giving him a profit of £4.6 million. Mr Thompson, who has successfully pursued a target of 30 per cent increases in earnings per share each year, also saw his pay rise by more than £100,000 last year because of a higher bonus pay-out. Mr Thompson received a basic salary of £460,000 and a bonus of £320,000, up from £276,000 last year.

The post-holiday spotlight picks out Irish paper firm

This week

FEW companies time their results to coincide with a holiday period, so Jefferson Smurfit, the Irish paper and packaging group, will have the spotlight pretty much to itself.

Amec will be closely quizzed on prospects in case it did not deserve to escape the clutches of Kvaerner of Norway earlier this year. The group has lined up a series of disposals to raise £150 million and help boost shareholder value.

Sellers of electrical goods facing two investigations for price of one

Roger Cowe

THE market for electrical goods is coming under renewed scrutiny by competition authorities as the Monopolies Commission investigates the suppliers' power and the Office of Fair Trading focuses on product warranties.

were still not providing enough information, despite establishing a code of conduct. Verdict believes that further action is inevitable. It is not clear how the regulators can intervene directly to force shops to lower the cost of policies, but one solution could be competitive action by banks and other financial institutions.

Warranties can add up to 15 percentage points to gross profit margins of electrical retailers such as Dixons, according to retail market analysts Verdict Research, which says they remain a target of the Office of Fair Trading.

Sales have been buoyant recently, with an increase of 11 per cent last year. But prices remain remarkably similar from store to store. The Monopolies Commission is therefore investigating the links between retailers and the handful of global suppliers who produce the majority of electrical goods.

Quebec saviour tested, by cuts

RAC

Racing

Jodami finds Gale too strong

Chris Hawkins sees British runners fill minor places in Irish National

FEATHERED GALE won the Jameson Irish Grand National by eight lengths from the English challenger Jodami yesterday but the bare result gives little indication of what a thrilling race this was.

Cool Dawn, trained in Somerset by Robert Alner, had set a furious pace and was still in front turning for home but Jodami, Go Go Gallant and Feathered Gale were snapping at his heels in hot pursuit.

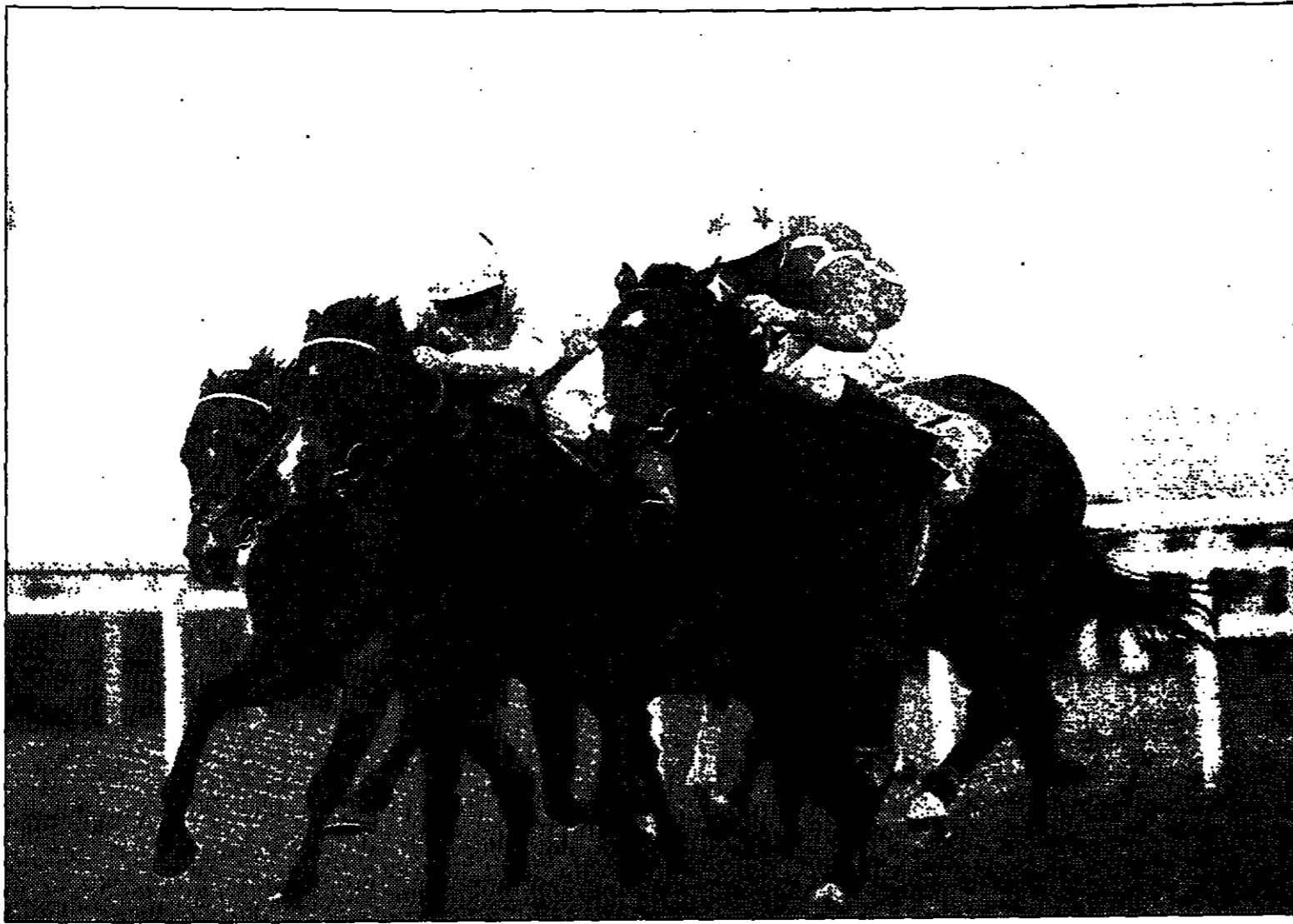
With two jumps, if asked to name the winner, most spectators would no doubt have plumped for Jodami, with his ears pricked and on whom Mark Dwyer had not moved a muscle.

But those who know this horse well would have been far less confident and sure enough he flattered to deceive, finding disappointingly little when let down approaching the last.

In telling contrast, however, Feathered Gale had been the first to come under pressure and Franny Woods began to rouse him after the third last. The more Woods asked for the horse he got and the gelding, who loves fast ground, ran out on a totally convincing winner.

Cool Dawn ran a fine race and plugged on to finish third after showing tremendous enthusiasm early on. Connor O'Dwyer, his jockey, seemed unable to hold him on the first circuit and this head-strong hunter, normally ridden by Dido Harding, really did himself no favours.

One would have thought the stronger handling would have made a difference but Cool Dawn seemed just too full of himself. Miss Harding has been criticised in the past for her "bare passenger" on Cool Dawn but O'Dwyer hardly gave the impression of being in charge.



Star show... Regal Archive, right, takes the Stark Maiden Stakes under a confident ride from John Reid at Kempton yesterday

Grand National like my late father Dan, who succeeded with Tied Cottage in 1979."

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Dido Harding, really did himself no favours. One would have thought the stronger handling would have made a difference but Cool Dawn seemed just too full of himself. Miss Harding has been criticised in the past for her "bare passenger" on Cool Dawn but O'Dwyer hardly gave the impression of being in charge.

Go Go Gallant faded in the final quarter mile to finish fourth, his jumping tending to fall apart as Charlie Swan asked for everything but the fast ground was probably against this seven-year-old. Richard Dillwood's mount Lord Singapore was in contention when falling seven out but a lot of the runners simply failed to get into the race, so fast was the pace up front.

Norman Conqueror was one of those taken off his feet and, after struggling for most of the trip, was pulled-up along with Flashing Steel. May be it was not quite the epic of last season when Flashing Steel got up close home but it was still a spine-tingler.

Southwell all-weather Flat meeting

Racing schedule for Southwell all-weather Flat meeting, including race numbers, names, and times.

Uttoxeter jumping card

Racing schedule for Uttoxeter jumping card, including race numbers, names, and times.

Wetherby National Hunt programme

Racing schedule for Wetherby National Hunt programme, including race numbers, names, and times.

Cochrane pips Eddy twice for a double

RAY COCHRANE got his timing right with a vengeance at Kempton Park yesterday when swooping late to snatch the Westminister Handicap. Richard Dillwood's mount Lord Singapore was in contention when falling seven out but a lot of the runners simply failed to get into the race, so fast was the pace up front.

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Henry Cecil got off the mark for the season when Magnificent Style, ridden by Willie Ryan, lived up to her name in the City Industrial Supplies Maiden Stakes winning by six lengths on her debut.

Racing schedule for other events, including race numbers, names, and times.

Results

Results table for various racing events, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Kempton

Results for Kempton racing events, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Newcastle

Results for Newcastle racing events, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Warwick

Results for Warwick racing events, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Carlisle

Results for Carlisle racing events, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Chepstow

Results for Chepstow racing events, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Fakenham

Results for Fakenham racing events, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Wetherby

Results for Wetherby racing events, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Uttoxeter

Results for Uttoxeter racing events, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Southwell

Results for Southwell racing events, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Kempton

Results for Kempton racing events, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Newcastle

Results for Newcastle racing events, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Warwick

Results for Warwick racing events, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Carlisle

Results for Carlisle racing events, including race numbers, names, and winners.

England

Wetherby National Hunt programme

Racing schedule for Wetherby National Hunt programme, including race numbers, names, and times.

Uttoxeter jumping card

Racing schedule for Uttoxeter jumping card, including race numbers, names, and times.

Southwell all-weather Flat meeting

Racing schedule for Southwell all-weather Flat meeting, including race numbers, names, and times.

Arabic text: سوقنا من الامل

OS

SPORTS NEWS 15

The Guardian Tuesday April 9 1996

Rugby League

Super League: Leeds 24, St Helens 46

Saints look wholly new

Paul Fitzpatrick

ST HELENS are in their best shape for some time and Shaun McRae can take much of the credit...

Their Challenge Cup final against Bradford Bulls on April 27 appears to be acting more as an incentive than a distraction...

The first half had been much more competitive. Saints led 6-2 but found themselves 6-14 down after tries by...

If any place is now under threat it is Anthony Sullivan. The Welsh winger's late error presented a try to his opposite number Jim Falloon...

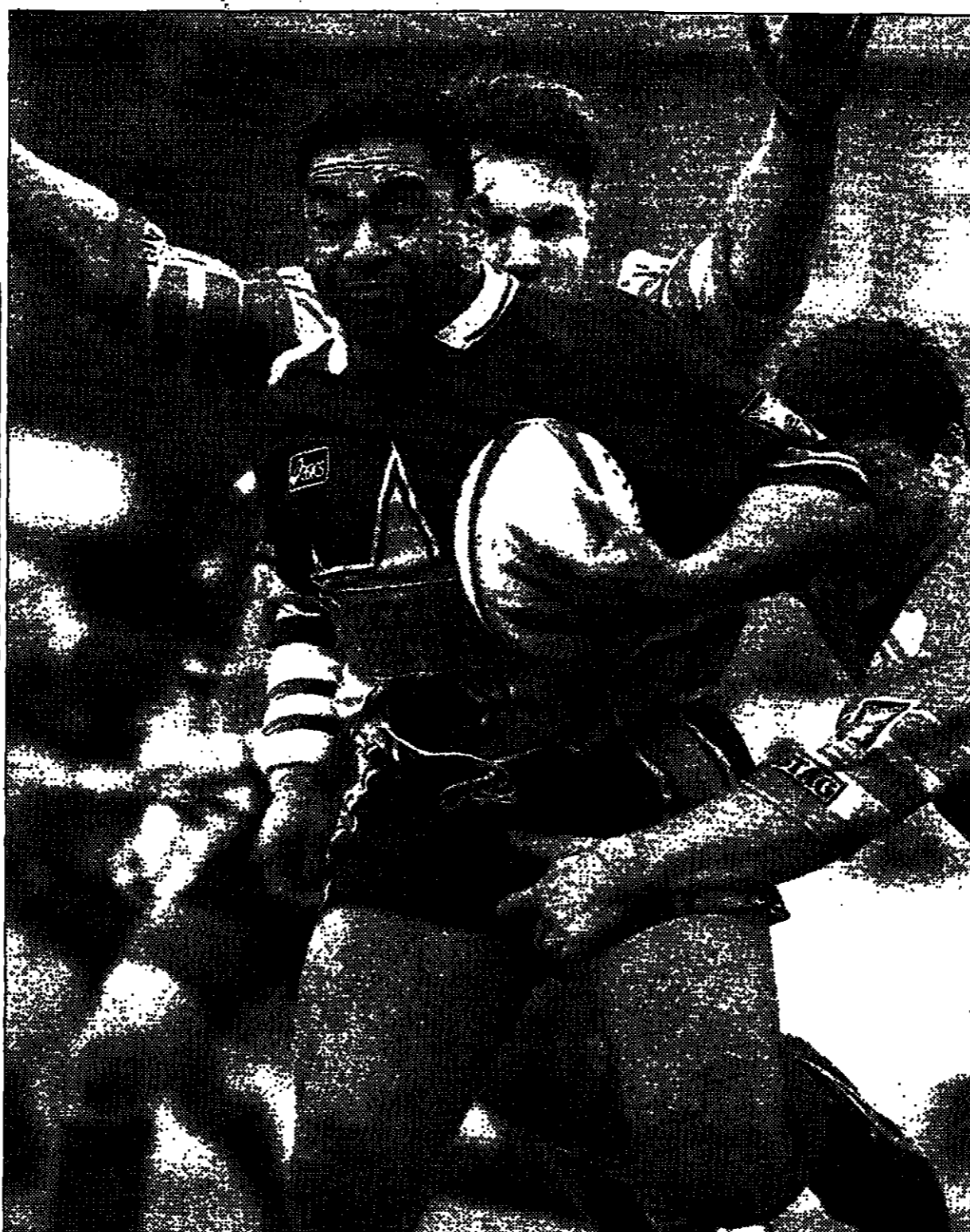
Leeds have now lost all three of their Super League games but reinforcements are on the way...

loose forward soon. They are badly needed. Leeds produced possibly their most committed performance since they removed Halifax from the Challenge Cup in late February...

The Floodgates then opened with tries for Newlove and Cunningham, and a second touch-down for two outstanding players, and a second touch-down in as many games for Tommy Martyn...

A penalty from Goulding, who was successful with nine kicks, put Saints ahead at 20-14. Leeds opened the scoring in the second half but were eventually left trailing by a St Helens side bursting with ideas and confidence...

Leeds missed the conversion. Shaun McRae, Mike Henson, Glanville, Cummins, Holroyd, Harmon, Shaw, Howard, Mann, Fozzard, Marcor, Selsman, Dobbson, Collier, McDermot...



No escape... home advantage counts for nothing as St Helens defenders halt George Mann of Leeds

Montgomerie and Woosnam turn to guru

David Davies in Atlanta on two men in need of a trim for the Masters

THE glorious triumph by Paul Stankowski in the BellSouth Classic in Atlanta on Sunday - glorious for him at least - further emphasised the feeble performances by some of the game's top players...

Woosnam is another whom Ferguson feels is on the right track and needs only a little trimming now and then. It was not always so. "We had dinner at the US Open last year and I asked him what he was doing wrong...

Ferguson was called in by Woosnam at the start of the year for a pre-season check-up. "I went to his home in Jersey in January for three days and he was too far back to start with, while the day will have done nothing for the confidence of Montgomerie or Woosnam...

No Entat cordial as Bears draw little comfort in Paris

OLDHAM BEARS were within minutes of making a significant capital gain in Paris but had to settle for a share of the points when a late try by the winger Pascal Bomat, after Paul Atcheson had failed to deal with Patrick Entat's kick through...

League and meant that both sides have now taken three points from their three matches in the competition...

from the French Test full-back Laurent Lucchese. It was Oldham's captain, Martin Crompton, who sparked Oldham into life when he danced through the Paris defence...

Entat then chipped through for the second-row Didier Cabestany to score, only for Oldham to regain the initiative when the team's other Australian, Andrew Patmore, touched down...

But Entat popped up to finish off an excellent handling move. Rowsell converted and then added a penalty when the Oldham loose forward Howard Hill was sin-binned for a professional foul six minutes from time to set up the thrilling finish...

Workington's progress in rugby league's brave new world has been anything but super and they are still without a win after being beaten 54-22 by Sheffield at Derwent Park.

Sport in brief

Rugby Franco Botica, the dual All Black and Kiwi international, will play union with Orrell next season after signing a £40,000 two-year deal with the League One club yesterday.

Casterford have given the 39-year-old back, who fully recovered from a broken leg, permission to switch codes during the Super League close season next winter.

Olympic Games Nagano has backed down on one of its election promises. The organisers of the 1998 Winter Olympics have given the consent of the International Olympic Committee to withdraw a pledge to pay the travel expenses of all competitors and officials...

Tennis India's first ATP tournament started earlier than scheduled yesterday because of lightning on the two side courts was faulty. Jakob Hlasek then extinguished Chris Wilkinson 6-3, 7-5.

Pool About 1,700 foreign competitors are expected in Nagano. The Japanese city won the right to stage the Games in a 1991 IOC vote in which it beat Salt Lake City 46-42.

Results

Table with match results for various sports including Soccer, Rugby League, and Rugby Union.

Endsleigh League

Table showing results for the Endsleigh League, divided into First Division and Second Division.

Third Division

Table showing results for the Third Division, divided into First Division and Second Division.

W-M Counties League

Table showing results for the W-M Counties League, divided into First Division and Second Division.

W-M Counties League

Table showing results for the W-M Counties League, divided into First Division and Second Division.

W-M Counties League

Table showing results for the W-M Counties League, divided into First Division and Second Division.

Rugby League

Table showing results for various Rugby League matches.

Rugby Union

Table showing results for various Rugby Union matches.

Tennis

Table showing tennis match results and fixtures.

Baseball

Table showing baseball match results and fixtures.

Boxing

Table showing boxing match results and fixtures.

Bond triumphant in final frame, page 13
Manchester City flirt with danger, page 14

England isolated in Five Nations talks, page 13
Leeds suffer third Super League defeat, page 15

Sports Guardian

PROFLIGATE UNITED KEEP PREMIERSHIP HOPES HIGH AT OLD TRAFFORD

Premiership: Manchester United 1, Coventry City 0

Cantona steps up the pace

David Lacey

MANCHESTER United's pursuit of a third Premier League title in four seasons continues to be coupled with the name of Eric Cantona. The Frenchman's seventh goal in eight matches enabled Alex Ferguson's side to steal a march on Newcastle United yesterday, but only in the figurative sense.

For far from marching to victory Manchester United were often too inclined to stroll around in the manner of men assuming that the points were theirs for the taking. So they should have been, had a higher proportion of the goals on offer been taken before half-time, when Coventry's defence was down to the last sandbag.

As it was, Old Trafford, having been sickened by the sight of blood being mopped from the pitch after an awful injury to the Coventry centre-back David Busst at the start of the game, spent much of the afternoon sweating in a mixture of exasperation and anxiety as United seemed incapable of reflecting their superiority in terms of goals.

The drive of Keane, suspended for this game, was badly missed in midfield. Butt, due to begin a two-match suspension after this weekend, was again influential and Giggs's mastery of the left wing was absolute. But yet again far too many of Manchester United's most promising attacks broke down either on Cole's indifferent first touch or his lack of a quicker response to what was developing around him.

For a short while, understandably, the way the match began cast a pall over the afternoon. After barely a minute and a half, play Busst suffered a compound fracture of the right leg colliding with Dennis Irwin.



Feet first... Cole battles for the ball with Ogrizovic and Williams as McClair runs in from midfield

PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

corner from the right with a glancing header that Schmeichel, arching backwards, managed to palm towards the far post. Busst lunged for the ball, Irwin went for it as well and the Coventry man's limb took the full force of the ensuing collision. Play was delayed for nine minutes while

the defender received emergency treatment before going to hospital.

The loss of Busst meant that Coventry had immediately to reorganise a defence that has been porous for much of the season. Williams switched from midfield to centre-back and within 10

minutes had made a crucial interception, heading clear a menacing centre from Beckham after a build-up involving Giggs, Cole and Irwin that had Old Trafford salivating.

By half-time, however, United's followers were beginning to bite their lips rather than lick them. United virtually

colonised the Coventry half of the field. Their initial passing was as perceptive as ever and an air of studied calm settled on the proceedings whenever Cantona, lying deeper than usual, gained possession.

But a host of chances came and went, with Cole's scoring touch deserting him once more. Credit still went to the courage and determination of Coventry's defenders, with Danish blocking a shot from Cantona and later clearing Giggs's centre from the goalmouth, but obvious opportunities were missed.

There were moments when Cole achieved the near-impossible by not scoring. Butt nicely took the pace off a low cross from Giggs for him but Cole failed to make contact; a gift of a ball from Cantona was struck wide; and in the closing minutes of the first half Cole completely missed his shot after Butt had met a deflected shot from Cantona with a superb first-time ball back into the middle.

A brief response from Coventry midway through the first half — Teller and Richardson releasing Salako for a shot wide of the far post — must have roused a doubt in United's minds as to the consequences of such wastefulness. If so, it did not last long. Within two minutes of the second half they were ahead.

Initially the scenario was familiar enough. Giggs outwitted Pickering on the left for the umpteenth time and, as the ball bobbed awkwardly in the goalmouth, Cole flailed a foot at it without making contact.

But his emulation of the car-can denied Richardson a proper headed clearance and the ball bounced down to leave Cantona with the simplest of scoring chances. Even then the promised flood of goals never happened.

Manchester United: Schmeichel; Irwin, G. Neville, May, Sharpe, Beckham, McClair, Butt, Giggs, Cole, Cantona.
Coventry City: Ogrizovic, Pickering, Busst, Ireland, Smith, Dashi, Williams, Teller, Lewis, 70, Richardson, Salako, Whelan, Dublin, Nelson.
Referee: D. Gallagher (Barnbury).

Drivers fail to see Fangio in the mirror



Richard Williams

YOU always believe you will become the best," Juan Manuel Fangio once said, "but you must never believe you have done so." His achievements made him a legend but his modesty made him loved.

Sunday's Grand Prix of Argentina was the first to take place since the peaceful death last summer of the 84-year-old, whose five world championships between 1951 and 1957 entitled him to be described as the greatest racing driver of all time.

Fangio died in his home town of Balcarce, which is about five hours' drive south of Buenos Aires. His most celebrated triumphs were achieved in Europe but it was to Balcarce that he returned when, a couple of weeks after his 47th birthday, he decided that he was no longer capable of doing justice to his own talent. Now Balcarce has a Fangio museum, installed within an elegant turn-of-the-century building and mostly dedicated to the cars he raced and the trophies he won.

Some of them were on view in Buenos Aires last week, at the track on which he won the grand prix four years running. Behind the main grandstand his compatriots lined up to view the Model A Ford in which he made his debut in 1936, using a pseudonym to hide his identity from disapproving parents.

Next to the Ford stood an even more mythical machine: a big pale green 1940 Chevrolet coupe, of a type familiar from the thrillers of Hawks, Ray and Bourne. This was the car, paid for by the people of Balcarce, in which Fangio won the Gran Premio del Norte and the Mil Milas Argentinas, fearsome events lasting several days in which competitors were required to navigate open roads that were often no more than rough tracks. I thought of that as I listened to Hill and Schumacher complaining about the difficulties they faced when confronted by a little bit of dust and a couple of bumps a mere inch or two high.

But each generation sets its own kind of test. Some time in the next century people will probably examine the

machines of Hill and Schumacher with the same sense of wonder that overwhelmed me as I looked at Fangio's Chevy.

The sensation was even stronger a couple of days before the grand prix, as I was walking through a shopping centre in Buenos Aires and came across another exhibit sent along by the Balcarce museum: a Maserati 250F purporting to be the one in which Fangio won the German Grand Prix of 1957, when he came from a long way behind to beat the Ferraris of Hawthorn and Collins with a drive of divine virtuosity.

The 250F was probably the most beautiful racing car ever built. Only a couple of dozen were made and their rarity value is immense. Many fakes have been created, while genuine cars have been reconstructed to resemble more famous ones.

So I can't say for sure if this was the real thing. It certainly looked perfect, with its long nose and elegant tail, the object of semi-curious stares from people moving between the clothes shops and the fast food court.

ON Sunday, an hour before the race, they unveiled a plaque to Fangio at the circuit. Another of his cars, the Mercedes W196 of 1954-55, was pushed silently down the main straight and past the grandstand by four mechanics in spotless white overalls. It seemed a pity that they didn't fire up the straight-eight engine and perhaps ask Jose Froilan Gonzalez, Fangio's contemporary and fellow countryman, to drive a lap in it. But somebody said that the immaculate silver car would never be started again, because they wanted Fangio to have been the last man to drive it. And anyway Gonzalez was stuck in traffic outside the circuit.

Alain Prost attended the unveiling but none of the current drivers was there. They're an sentimental bunch, understandably enough, and tend to leave that sort of thing to the rest of us, but I thought they could have made an exception for the only man to win their championship five times.

Still, I was glad that if one engine had to be running as Fangio's old car was wheeled past, it should be from the McLaren pit, where the present-day Mercedes engineers were fine-tuning Coulthard's car, oblivious to the little ceremony. Perhaps the man we were honouring would have preferred that. Life going on, work being done, a race to run.



To many this concept would sound melodramatic. Not to us. Only dandruff sufferers know what a heavy cross this condition is to bear. An itchy, flaky scalp will not only cause physical distress, it can undermine your confidence, too. Our research taught us that dandruff is caused by a microbe. A medical condition demanding a reliable medical solution — First Aid.

First Aid for your dandruff.

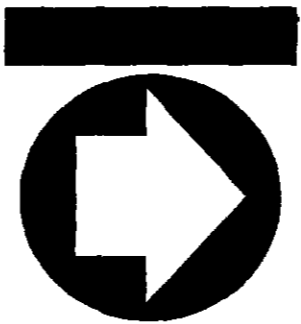
Our solution, the Nizoral Dandruff Shampoo formula, proved so successful that it's been tried and trusted by doctors and dermatologists for years. Our shampoo cares for your hair differently. The breakthrough came when we identified and patented an ingredient that would specifically target and prevent the microbe that is the root cause of dandruff.



NIZORAL DANDRUFF SHAMPOO. FIRST AID FOR DANDRUFF.

Nizoral Dandruff Shampoo works differently. As the microbe is prevented from returning, so too, are the itching and flaking symptoms. Unlike some harsher anti-dandruff treatments, our Nizoral Dandruff Shampoo is actually nice to use as well, being gentle and perfume free. So all you'll be aware of is how clean and healthy your hair feels.

Nizoral Dandruff Shampoo is effective, and after an initial period of using it twice weekly, you should only need to use it once a week to keep dandruff away. In between, you can wash your hair with whatever shampoo you like. You can buy a bottle from your pharmacist without prescription. To obtain your free information leaflet, call 0990 134 218.



Jeremy Paxman sat in the middle and 15 men sat on either side of him, dressed in rugby strip but all wearing clip-on microphones. Paxman was wearing shorts under his suit. Armando Iannucci

Guardian Crossword No 20,622

Set by Pasquale

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

- Across**
- 1 Iron tip given a spot of paint (7)
 - 5 Trainee in hospital department following the boss (7)
 - 10 Grieve for 27 (4)
 - 11 Those that keep quiet — those lacking initial success in tennis? (10)
 - 12 Several prints in a pub, relatively (6)
 - 13 Flowering plant makes farewell almost cheerful (8)
 - 14 Ain't noses put out of joint by remarkable person? (9)
 - 16 Female star may be joined by any number in bed (5)
 - 17 Amusement offered by second drink (5)
 - 19 Girl into history is expert on the Greeks (5)
 - 23 To applaud deception is nonsense (8)
 - 24 Electric current needs flex — agree? (5)
- Down**
- 2 Learned, but without Latin — do again (7)
 - 3 Vessel's removable inner coating (5)
 - 4 Fool without work, I should be an aviator (2-5)
 - 6 Singer is targeted by indoor players (6)
 - 7 Give girl story as a distraction (9)
 - 8 Bliss offered by vehicle in pouring rain (7)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,622

9 Neglect correspondence and abandon duty (5,4,4)
15 Torture which has e.g. limbs strung up with difficulty (9)
18 'Handy' couple of friends (7)
20 Adult is devoured by ferocious beast — what an affair! (7)
21 Tree ceremony (7)
22 Tickstar troddan on by black shoe (6)
25 Winner to fret impatiently (5)

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The great escape

inside